

# **AN ANALYSIS OF AMBIGUITY IN THE ARTICLES OF *THE JAKARTA POST***



**THESIS**

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# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Research Background**

Hall (1968: 158) states that language is “the institution whereby humans communicate and interact with each other by means of habitually used oral-auditory arbitrary symbols”. As a means of communication, language holds an important role in life. Language is one of the human basic needs and it can not be separated from their life. As social creatures, people need language to communicate and interact with the other to fulfill their needs. People create language by forming words which have meaning and can be understood to all people. People can express their ideas, share information and feelings directly or indirectly, in a form of spoken or written by using language.

Nowadays, there are many ways to communicate with the other due to the developments of technology. There are many media, whether electronic or printed media to share information and to keep in touch with the other. People can get the information about the development of the world and everything happens in a day from electronic and printed media.

As a means of communication, both printed and electronic media hold an important role to the development of language. They become a source for people to get factual information or news, whether national or international news because nowadays printed and electronic media are more global. As an international language, English also holds an important role in the development of globalization that is as a means of communication in business, politic, science and technology. There are many English News TV programs, radio talk shows, entertainment, advertisements, songs, and even newspapers and magazines

Newspaper, especially daily newspaper, has a big contribution for the people. People can get information about local or international events everyday because the news and information are up to date and accurate. As a consequence, there are many daily newspapers published in Indonesia and one of the daily English newspapers is *The Jakarta Post*.

Generally, people try to communicate perfectly and completely. They want to give information as many as they can to the other. What people try to do is also conducted by the media, especially printed media. The journalist tries to give perfect, complete and accurate information for people. The accuracy of the article is determined by the sentences which refer to the words structure that grammatical and structural. However, words structure and sentence structure can lead to be ambiguous even though they are grammatically correct. It is due to lexical or grammatical ambiguity. People may have the different interpretation due to the ambiguous words, phrase, and sentences.

A sentence is said to be ambiguous whenever it can be associated with two or more different meanings (Cann, 1993:8). Kempson (1977: 123) also states as follows:

It may seem as though little need be said about ambiguity in that it is as a clear-cut phenomenon: both words and sentences can have more than one meaning.

From both statements, it can be concluded that ambiguous word (s), phrase (s), and sentence (s) have more than one interpretation. To figure out the exact interpretation or exact meaning of the words and sentences, they need the specific context.

Ullmann (1972 in Pateda, 2001: 202) divides ambiguity into three kinds; phonological ambiguity, lexical ambiguity and grammatical ambiguity. Phonological ambiguity relates to the sound of language that if this is said, it will generate two or more interpretations by the hearers. Phonological ambiguity does not arise in written form.

Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning. Meanwhile, grammatical ambiguity arises when a phrase or a sentence creates ambiguity due to the structures that can be interpreted in many ways. Both of grammatical ambiguity and lexical ambiguity lead the readers to have different interpretation. Too many interpretations make the readers not understand the meaning of the words or sentences.

Again, ambiguity is a kind of linguistics phenomenon which deserves a careful observation. Ambiguity needs to be thought deeply, to be exposed and eliminated. Ambiguity brings specific communicational effect. The sentence may be structural in a case of word order but it may lead the readers to have more than one interpretation.

Based on the phenomenon and explanation above, the writer is interested to conduct the research related to ambiguity. This research is expected to identify the kinds of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. Moreover, this research tries to figure out the causal factors of the ambiguity in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. Furthermore, this research also discusses the interpretations which may arise in the ambiguous words and sentences found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. This research entitled **“AN ANALYSIS OF AMBIGUITY IN THE ARTICLES OF *THE JAKARTA POST*”**.

## **B. Problem Statements**

Based on the research background, the researcher states the problems as follows:

1. What kinds of ambiguity are found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*?
2. What are the causal factors of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*?
3. How are the interpretations of the ambiguous words and sentences of the articles of *The Jakarta Post*?

### **C. Research Objectives**

Based on the problem statements, this research is aimed:

1. To identify the kinds of ambiguity found in the articles of *the Jakarta Post*.
2. To figure out the causal factors of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*.
3. To describe the interpretations which arise in the ambiguous words and sentences in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*.

### **D. Problem Limitation**

The research is focused on the case of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* (the ambiguous words, phrases, and sentences). Besides, it also analyzes the causal factors of ambiguity and describes the interpretations of the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences.

The data are taken from the articles of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper published on Thursday, December 11, 2008. All ambiguous words, phrases and sentences in the 15 articles of *The Jakarta Post* become the data of this research.

### **E. Research Benefits**

This research is expected to be beneficial for:

1. The readers, in order to read the whole articles before interpreting the ambiguous words, phrases, or sentences.

2. The journalists, in order to concern more on the words and sentences in the articles so that the readers know the right interpretation of the sentences without hesitating the interpretation due to the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences.
3. The students who study about Semantic, so that they will know more about ambiguity especially the kinds of ambiguity, the causal factors of ambiguity, and how to interpret the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences.
4. The other researchers, to take this thesis as a reference for further research about ambiguity.

#### **F. Research Methodology**

This research is a descriptive qualitative research that refers to the method to formulate the conclusion by collecting, classifying, and interpreting the data of the research.

The source of data of the research is the articles of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper published on Thursday, December 11, 2008. All of the ambiguous words and sentences in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published on Thursday, December 11, 2008 are used as the data of the research. This research applies total sampling technique.

## **G. Thesis Organization**

The organization of the thesis is as follows:

**CHAPTER I :** Introduction contains Research Background, Problem Statements, Research Objectives, Problem Limitation, Research Benefits, Research Methodology, and Thesis Organization.

**CHAPTER II:** Literature Review contains the theories of Semantics and the Concepts of Meaning, Ambiguity, Journalism, Article and Newspaper, *The Jakarta Post*, and Review of Related Study.

**CHAPTER III:** Research Methodology contains Type of Methodology, Data and Data Sources, Sample and Technique of Sampling, Research Design, Technique of Collecting Data, Research Coding, and Technique of Analyzing Data.

**CHAPTER IV:** Analysis contains Introduction, Data Analysis and Discussion.

**CHAPTER V:** Conclusions and Suggestions.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Chapter II is Literature Review, where the theories are applied. The theories are needed to help the researcher in doing research. Here are the theories which the researcher used in the research.

#### **A. Semantics Theory and The Concept of Meaning**

##### **a. Semantics Theory**

Semantics, in the broadest sense, is the study of meaning. It is, however, more usual within linguistics to interpret the term narrowly, concern on the study of the aspects of meaning which are encoded in linguistic expressions and are independent of their use on particular speech community. In other words, Semantics is the study of meaning abstracted away from those aspects that are derived from the intensions of speakers, their psychological states and those the socio-cultural aspects of the context in which their utterances are made.

Yule (1996: 114) states that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. In semantics analysis, there is always an attempt to focus on what the words conventionally mean on a particular occasion.

Kempson (1977: 2) states that all languages depend on words and sentences having meaning (every word meaning). Moreover he states that for any language, semantics theory must be able to assign to each word and sentence associated with it in that language. In the case of words, this essentially means writing a dictionary but in the case of sentences, the meaning of those sentences depends on the meaning of words it contains. But, it is not a simple accumulation because sometimes word-order will change meaning. Thus, a semantics theory is not only to capture the exact nature of the relation between word meaning and sentence meaning, but it must also be able to state in which ways this relation is depend on word-order. Not only in this case but both words and sentences can be ambiguous (ibid: 3).

Moreover Kempson states that a semantics theory must fulfill at least three conditions: (i) it must capture for any language the nature of word meaning and sentence meaning and explain the nature of the relation between them; (ii) it must be able to predict the ambiguities in the forms of language, whether in words or sentences; (iii) it must characterize and explain the systemic relations between words and sentences of a language (ibid: 4).

The case of ambiguity relates to the meaning and interpretations. Meaning and interpretations in relation with the communication are the main things that we have to consider before we utter and write because different interpretation of the two or more hearers or readers may cause misunderstanding and finally raises problems.

Furthermore, semantics rules should not be allowed to delete meanings during the derivation of the meaning of a composite expression. The implication of the interpretation is that meanings should be ascribed not only to lexemes and sentences but also to other syntactic constituents. The concept of syntax as a bridge between phonology and semantics in many grammatical theories would seem to require that all constituents be assigned a meaning by the semantics. It is common to assume that semantics constituency is paralleled to the syntactic constituency and hence, an adequate semantics theory must be able to ascribe appropriate meanings to the words, phrases and sentences according to their syntactic structure.

**b. The Concept of Meaning**

The term meaning is, of course, much more familiar to us all. However, there is the different meaning between the noun “meaning” and the verb “to mean”. Lyons (1995: 5) states that the noun “meaning” and the verb “to mean” have many meanings. The main point that he points out is not so much that there are many meanings are interconnected and shade into one another in various ways. Moreover, Lyons (1981: 136) gives the identification of meaning as follows:

According to what has long been the most widely accepted theory of Semantic, meanings are ideas or concepts, which can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer by embodying them, as it were, in the forms of one language or another (Lyons, 1981: 136).

Lyon's statement is in line with Strawson (1971: 90) who gives statement that it is impossible to give an adequate account of the concept of meaning without reference to the possession by the speakers of audience-directed intentions of a certain complex kind. Strawson brings the theory of communication-intention to explain the concept of meaning. Both Lyons and Strawson agree that the meaning in a communication involves (the mind of) speakers and (the mind of) hearers in a certain context in the form of one language or another.

Still, the concept of meaning needs a certain context referring to the intention of the speaker. Kempson (1977: 12) states that there are at least three possible starting points to give an explanation of meaning, they are the signification of words, the interpretation of sentences, or what a speaker is intending to convey in acts of communication.

In *Language*, Bloomfield (1961: 139) states that the meaning of a linguistic form has been defined as the situation in which the speaker utters it and the response which is called forth in the hearer. In this case, there are three factors of meaning: speaker's situation, speech, and hearer's response. The speaker's situation and the hearer's response are closely co-ordinated, thanks to the circumstance that everyone of us learns to act indifferently as the speaker or as the hearer. Next, he explains that defining the meaning of a speech-form accurately has to do with some matters that are studied in the Scientifics' knowledge.

c. **Kinds of Meaning**

Leech (1974: 10-24) divides meaning into seven types, they are:

1. Conceptual Meaning

Sometimes, it is called as denotative or cognitive meaning. It is widely assumed to be central factor in linguistic communication and it can be shown to be integral to the essential functions of language in a way that other types of meaning are not (which is not to say that conceptual meaning is always the most important element of an act of linguistic communication) (p.10)

2. Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression by virtue of what it *refers* to, over and above its purely conceptual content. To a large extent, the notion of 'reference' overlaps with conceptual meaning. (p.14)

3. Stylistic and Affective Meaning

Stylistic meaning is the meaning which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use. The stylistic meaning of a text is decoded through the recognition of different dimensions and levels of usage within the same language. (p. 15).

Meanwhile, affective meaning is often explicitly conveyed through the conceptual or connotative content of the words used. It is largely a parasitic category in the sense that to express our emotions we rely upon the mediation of other categories of meaning (conceptual, connotative or stylistic meaning). (p. 18).

#### 4. Reflective and Collocative Meaning

Reflective meaning is the meaning which arises in cases of multiple conceptual meaning, when one sense of a word-forms part of our response to another sense. (p. 19).

On the other hand, collocative meaning consists of the associations a word acquires on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment. (p. 20).

#### 5. Associative Meaning

Associative meaning is the affiliation of the reflective meaning, collocative meaning, stylistic and affective meaning. It consists of many factors which can be studied by using statistic approach. (p. 20-21).

#### 6. Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning relates to the way of the speaker or the writer organizes the message, in terms of ordering, focus, and emphasis. It is often felt, for example, that an active sentence has different meaning from its passive equivalent but in conceptual content they may seem to be the same. (p.22).

## 7. Intended Meaning and Interpreted Meaning.

Intended meaning refers to the mind of speaker or writer when he/she is framing his/her message while interpreted meaning refers to the mind of the reader or hearer when he/she receives the message. (p. 24).

On the other hand, Lyons (1995:44) draws the meaning into two distinctions, descriptive and non-descriptive meaning.

This is the distinction between descriptive (or propositional) and non-descriptive (or non-propositional) meaning. (Alternative terms, more or less equivalent with 'descriptive' and 'propositional' are 'cognitive' and 'referential').

Descriptive meaning is universally an acknowledged fact that languages can be used to make descriptive statements which are true or false. This fact gives particular prominence in the truth-conditional theory of semantics. Meanwhile, non-descriptive meaning is more heterogeneous. It includes expressive meaning (kind of meaning by virtue of which speakers express, rather than describe, their beliefs, attitudes and feelings).

Besides, Yule (1996: 114) differentiates meaning into two: conceptual and associative meaning. Conceptual meaning covers those basics, essential components of meaning which are conveyed by literal use of a word. Associative meaning deals with the sense of an expression of a word through feeling.

Some linguists differentiate meaning into two; lexical meaning and grammatical meaning (Sumarsono, 2007: 66). Lexical meaning refers to the meaning of single word. It is usually called as semantic meaning or external meaning. Lexical meaning can be found in the dictionary associated with grammar. The meaning of the word may change if it is constructed in the sentence. Grammatical meaning, on the other hand, refers to the meaning of a structure constructing a phrase or a sentence in certain context and we can not find it in the dictionary.

## **B. Ambiguity**

### **a. The Definition of Ambiguity**

It may seem as though little need to be said about ambiguity in that it is a clear cut-phenomenon which both words and sentences can have more than one meaning (Kempson, 1977:123).

Moreover, Cann (1993:8) states that a sentence is said to be ambiguous whenever it can be associated with two or more different meanings.

Both Cann and Kempson agree that ambiguous words, phrases or sentences have more than one interpretation. To figure out the exact meaning or the message conveyed in the ambiguous words or sentences, it demands the specific context. The first sort of ambiguity occurs where an expression is associated with two or more unrelated meaning.



Moreover, G.K. Zipf even tries to study about the meaning and formulates it with mathematic precision. Finally, he suggests “the different meaning of a word will tend to be equal to the square root of its relative frequency (with the possible exception of some dozen most frequent words)” (Sumarsono, 2007:215). His formula is concluded by J. Whatmough:

$$m = F^{1/2}$$

m for meaning and F for its relative frequency

In line with Zipf, Raskin (1985: 115) states, as follows:

“In bonafite communication as well, ambiguity is quite frequent, and it may also be created by accordance of polysemous or homonymous words, there, however, the process of disambiguation should, and usually does, take place immediately and, ideally, only one meaning is intended by the speaker and perceived by the hearer”.

However, Zipf and Raskin only focus on ambiguous words in the case of polysemy and homonymy.

Furthermore, Ullmann (1972, in Pateda, 2001:202) states that ambiguity is linguistic condition which can arise in a variety of ways. Ambiguity arises in spoken and written form. In listening unclear spoken utterance or reading unclear sentence, we occasionally have some problems with the meaning or interpretation conveyed by the speaker or the writer. We

can only ensure the meaning of the words, phrases, or sentences of any utterance in certain situation or context.

**b. Kinds of Ambiguity**

Ullmann (1972, in Pateda, 2001: 202) divides ambiguity into three: phonological ambiguity, lexical ambiguity, and grammatical ambiguity.

**1. Phonological Ambiguity**

Ambiguity in the level of phonology arises from the sound of language uttered. Sometimes people speak too fast and make other people feel doubt about the meaning or message of the utterance so that people may interpret it in many ways.

Example: *I scream* (I skri:m) or *Ice cream* (ais kri:m).

When the hearers hear the utterance above, they may have the different interpretation whether '*I scream*' refers to the action 'scream' or '*ice cream*' refers to the kinds of drink.

**2. Lexical Ambiguity**

Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning. This kind of ambiguity may arise in the written form, such as in the articles, in the news titles, and other form of written texts.

Example: *Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger **toll** on emerging Asia.*

The word ‘*toll*’ in the sentence above may be interpreted into different ways since the word ‘toll’ has many meanings.

Toll (n):

- Payment for road, bridge etc.
- Lost or suffered

Based on the definitions of the word ‘*toll*’ above, the readers may interpret the sentence into:

a. First interpretation

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may need or require a bigger payment on emerging Asia.*

b. Second interpretation

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may cause a bigger lost on emerging Asia.*

### 3. Grammatical Ambiguity

Ambiguity in the level of grammar occurs when phrase, clause or sentence create ambiguity because their structure may be interpreted more than one way. Equal with lexical ambiguity, it may also arise in the written text such as articles, news titles and other written text.

Example: *Indonesian women and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*

The sentence above may be interpreted into different ways. The readers may be confused in modifying the word ‘*Indonesian*’, whether it modifies the word ‘*women*’ only or ‘*children*’ also. However, the readers may interpret the sentence into:

a. First interpretation

*Women from Indonesia and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation*

b. Second interpretation

*Indonesian women and Indonesian children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation*

c. **The Causal Factors of Ambiguity**

Ullmann (1972, in Pateda, 2001: 203-206) states the causal factors of ambiguity as follows:

1. The causal factors of lexical ambiguity

i. Polysemy or multiple meaning

Polysemy or multiple meaning occurs when one word has two or more senses. Yule (1996:121) states that relatedness of meaning

accompanying identical form technically known as polysemy, which can be defined as one form (written or spoken).

For example is the word *port* in datum 014/LA/D11/P14/T9 which possibly mean as “the town or city with the harbor”, “a place where ships load and unload”, or “the side of a ship or an aircraft”.

## ii. Homonymy

Homonyms are two different words with the same form (Lyons, 1981: 146). Moreover, Bloomfield (1961: 45) states that homonym refers to the different linguistics forms which have the same phonetic form (and differ, therefore, only as to meaning).

For example: Datum 016/LA/D11/P16/T10

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger toll on emerging Asia.*

Homonym is divided into three varieties:

➤ Homophones: different words pronounced alike but spelt differently

E.g.: *two* (tu:) – *too* (tuw:); *sea* (sie) – *see* (sie).

➤ Homographs: different words spelt alike but pronounced differently

E.g.: *minute* (‘minit) – *minute* (mai’nju:t) ; *bow* (bəv) – *bow* (bav).

- Homonyms: words both spelt and pronounced alike.

E.g.: *club* (klʌb) (social organization); *club* (klʌb) (a blunt weapon)

## 2. The causal factors of grammatical ambiguity

### i. Grammatical word form

- Prefix

Prefix is an affix which is placed before the stem of a word. Some prefixes can cause ambiguity.

For example:

*The door is unlock able.*

Prefix-un in the sentence above may cause ambiguity. The readers may be confused. The readers may interpret the sentence into:

- *The door is capable of being locked, or;*
- *The door is impossible to lock.*

- Suffix

Some suffixes have more than one meaning and some of them may cause ambiguity.

For example is suffix-*ing* in the verb or noun in the sentence:

*Visiting relatives can be boring.*

Here, *visiting relatives* may be interpreted into two ways:

First, “*visiting*” functions as gerund → the activity (visit the relatives can be boring).

Second, “*visiting*” functions as active participle → relatives who are visiting make bore.

## ii. Equivocal Phrasing

Actually every word constructing a phrase has a clear combination, but it can be interpreted in many ways.

e.g.: Datum 005/GA/D11/P6/T3

*Indonesian women and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*

### ➤ Description

It may seem confusing whether the word ‘*Indonesian*’ modifies the noun ‘*women*’ only or ‘*children*’ also.

### ➤ Interpretation

- *Women from Indonesia and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*
- *Women from Indonesia and children from Indonesia are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation*

### iii. Contextual Ambiguity

Contextual ambiguity arises in the context of the speaker's condition or in the context of situation.

e.g.: Utterance "*Get Out!*"

This utterance may generate ambiguity when the context of situation makes two possible meanings. In other word, the hearers do not really understand the meaning as well as the context.

For example:

*Situation:* The headmaster is talking with a student who always makes a trouble in the school. He is angry with the student. When he is angry, he asks the student to leave him by saying *Get out!* At the same time, another student enters the headmaster's room and hears the command of the headmaster.

Here, the student who enters the headmaster room will not understand the meaning of his headmaster's command whether it is for him or for the student who is sitting in the front of the headmaster. In this case, utterance "*Get out!*" is a kind of contextual ambiguity because it may be interpreted more than one way.

To avoid contextual ambiguity, people should really understand the context of the speaker's or writer's condition, or the context of situation.



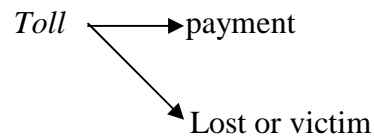
d. **Ambiguity Interpretation**

People may interpret the ambiguous words, phrases or sentences in many ways, and some of them are:

1. Through the ascription of multiple meanings to a single word. It arises in the case of homonym and polysemy.

e.g.: Datum 016/LA/D11/P16/T10

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger **toll** on emerging Asia.*



2. Through the assignment of different syntactic structures to a sentence (in structural or grammatical ambiguity which depends on syntactic structure of a sentence).

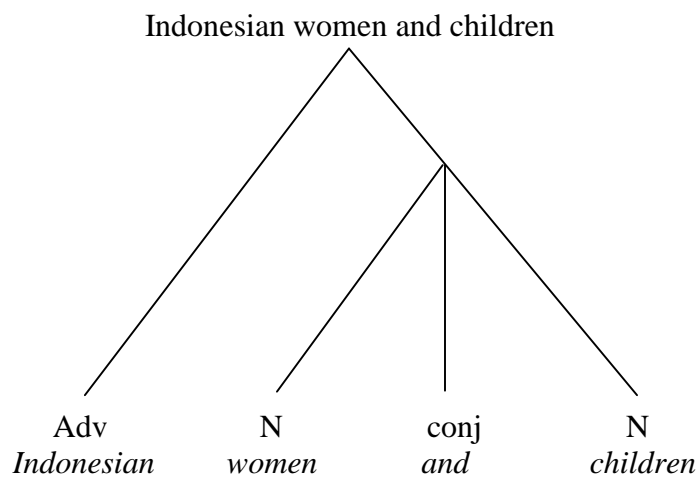
e.g.: Datum 05/GA/D11/P6/T3

***Indonesian women and children** are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*

This sentence is considered as grammatical ambiguity in the case of equivocal phrasing. It is necessary to know whether the word ‘*Indonesian*’ modifies the noun the ‘*women*’ only or both ‘*women*’ and ‘*children*’.

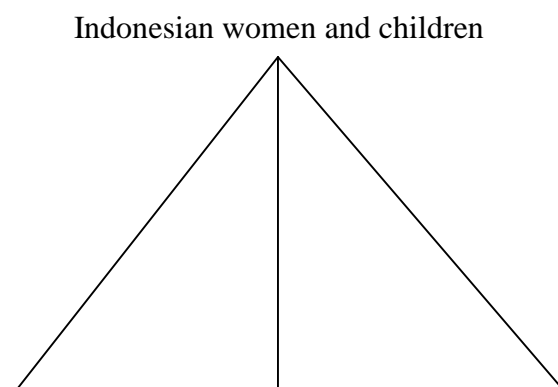
➤ Interpretation 1

*Indonesian women and Indonesian children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*



➤ Interpretation 2

*Women from Indonesia and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*



NP		conj		N
<i>Indonesian women</i>		<i>and</i>		<i>children</i>

3. Through the use of certain expression that may have different semantic scopes.

For example is the use of ‘*every*’ and ‘*some*’ or negation ‘*not*’.

E. g.: *Every good politician loves a cause.*

The sentence is usually only assigned a single surface structure; so that this ambiguity can not be directly attributed to a syntactic source referring to as a semantic scope of ambiguity:

- *Every politician loves a cause and that is their own career* (there is only one cause that every good politician loves)
- *Every good politician loves a cause and each one loves a cause that everyone else loathes* (each politician may love different cause).

#### e. **How to avoid Ambiguity**

Pateda (2001), in *Semantik Leksikal* reveals the way to avoid ambiguity. They are:

1. In the case of phonological ambiguity, people may avoid ambiguity by asking the speaker to repeat his/her utterance.
2. By considering the context of situation or the supra-segmental elements

People may avoid ambiguity, whether lexical ambiguity or grammatical ambiguity, even phonological ambiguity by considering the context of situation. In listening unclear spoken utterance or reading unclear sentences, people occasionally have some difficulties to understand the meaning. They may ensure the meaning of words, phrases and sentences in a certain context of situation.

### 3. By replacing technique

The ambiguous word may be overcome by replacing its synonym or another word which is closely related without changing the message of the sentence.

For example is in distinguishing the word *view* from the meaning of natural scenery or personal opinion (point of view). It may be replaced by the word *scenery* if the writer intends to talk about natural scenery.

### 4. By expansion technique

Expansion technique is the other techniques to avoid ambiguity. The ambiguous word may be described or explained more by using the additional information about the ambiguous word.

For example is when someone says “*Get out!*” that can be ambiguous because of the less information.

People who hear these utterance may be confused because there is no explanation about the place to go, the people should go, the time to go and

the purpose of their gone. This phenomenon can be avoided by expanding and add the information such as “*Get out from my house right now!*”

#### 5. By insertion technique

Insertion technique can be used as the way to avoid ambiguity. By inserting some morphemes or words to the ambiguous words, phrases or sentences. Therefore, the meaning or the message of the utterance is intentionally conveyed.

For example is in the word *toll*. It can be inserted by the word *a payment for a road, bridge or etc.* The brackets, apostrophe or comma can be used as a symbol to avoid ambiguity

By using the techniques which are explained above, the writer can give clear information to the readers so that they will not be confused and have wrong interpretation. There is also no misunderstanding between the writer and the readers.

### **C. Journalism**

Etymology, the term journalism comes from France, *journ* means as note or daily report. Sumadiria (2006:4) states that journalism, technically, is an activity of preparing, searching, collecting, writing and reporting information for the people through the media.

Moreover, Mappatoto (1993, 69-70) quotes from three different arguments explaining journalism. They are:

1. ...journalism embraces all the forms in which and through which the news and the comments on the news reach public (Bond, 1961).
2. ...the systemic and reliable gathering, writing, interpreting, processing, and disseminating of public information, public opinion and public entertainment for publication in news papers, magazines, and broadcast (Wolseley, 1969).
3. ...the occupation in which news is reported and interpretation and opinion based on news are given (Emery, 1986).

All the definitions above have the element of news and publication. The main part of journalism is the way in getting news, writing and producing the news and also publishing it in the media (printed and electronic media). In addition, news itself is the timely, concise, accurate report of an event, not the event (Koesworo, 1994:75). In addition, Koesworo (1994:75) concludes that news is as follows:

1. News is new information of recent event.
2. News is timely report of anything of interest the most reader.
3. News is anything timely that interests a number of readers and the best news is that which has the greatest interest for the greatest of readers.
4. News is anything actually done, or existing, a statement of actuality.
5. News should be present only the rows fact the days event.

A journalist (a person who practices in journalism) has a big duty to make the complete and clear sentences, and also accurate news. Therefore, they have to

be careful in creating their words and sentences in order to avoid ambiguity because ambiguity leads the readers to have different interpretation.

#### **D. Article and Newspaper**

##### **a. Article**

Mappatoto (1993:113) defines article as a factual composition of an event or problem as a part of newspapers, magazines, bulletins and other written texts to inform ideas, opinions or facts to the people. Moreover, he divides articles into eleven types. They are as follows:

<b>ARTICLES</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Biography	Someone's biography written by the journalist
Autobiography	Biography written by their selves
History	Everything related to the history
Journey	Story of the journey which beats readers heart
Arguments	Argumentation about a problem to get the solution
Narrations	Fiction or non-fiction story explain structurally
Description	The description of a thing, person, or situation
How-to-do-it	Practically guidance to do something
Collectives	Guidance to make something, such as cooking
Research	Research report
News feature	Text contains information about something

Source: 1. Wolseley, Roland E., Understanding Magazines, (Ames, Iowa: The Iowa University Press), 1969:186-187.

2. Wilson, George P., A Guide to Better English, (New York: F.S. Crofts & Co.), 1974:441-442, 444.

From the kinds of articles above, one article which is relevant to be exposed in press is *news feature* because it's easy to be understood and compatible to be written in the newspaper. As a written text, an article has a contribution to the people in the case of news and information.

**b. Newspapers**

The term “newspaper” covers a surprisingly broad range of publications. Newspaper is a publication containing news, information and advertising. Herawati, Executive Director of *The Jakarta Post*, (2008: 8) said, as follows:

“...With newspaper, you will have creative and knowledgeable children. Newspapers will connect students to the world. They will learn about technology, oil mining, the global financial crisis, newly elected U.S. President (-elect) Barack Obama, and many other issues”.

Newspapers are most often published on a daily or weekly. A daily newspaper is issued every day (sometimes with the exception of Sundays and some [national holidays](#)). Most daily newspapers are published in the morning. Afternoon or evening papers are aimed more at commuters and office workers. Meanwhile, [weekly newspapers](#) are commonly published once a week or once in two weeks. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper>).



No matter what their circumstances are, all of them are akin. They are made by type, ink, and newsprint. They exist to inform and influence the communities in which they are published. The differences are only in the features. Weekly newspaper tends to be smaller than daily newspapers. Daily newspaper is more heterogeneous and has so many features. Generally, newspaper has some features, such as: [editorial](#) opinions and [op-eds](#); [comic strips](#) and other entertainments, such as [crosswords](#), [sudoku](#) and [horoscopes](#); [weather](#) news and [forecasts](#) [advice](#), [gossip](#), [food](#) and other columns; [critical](#) reviews of movies, plays, restaurants, etc and also classifieds ads.

As a means of communication, newspaper has some roles:

1. To inform its readers objectively about what is happening in their community, country, and world.
2. To comment editorially on the news in order to bring this developments into focus.
3. To provide the means whereby persons with goods and services to advertise their wares.
4. To campaign for desirable civic projects and help eliminate undesirable conditions.
5. To give the readers a friendly counselor, information bureau, and champion of his rights.

(Emery, et al.; 1969:174).

When a newspaper performs all the roles above or most of these tasks well, it becomes an integral part of human life, since printed words have a lasting power than spoken and visual image. Readers can refer to it again and again.

Realizing that newspaper is the important things in terms of communication, journalist publishes newspaper daily and weekly. It gives the people both daily and weekly information. *The Jakarta Post* is one and the only daily English newspaper in Indonesia, while *Tempo* is the weekly newspaper.

#### ***E. The Jakarta Post***

*The Jakarta Post* is one of the daily English newspapers published in Indonesia. The newspaper was launched in 1983 and the first issue of *The Jakarta Post* appeared on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The new English daily is unique, not only in its goal, which is to improve the standard of English language media in Indonesia, but also in bringing together for competing media publishers into producing a quality newspaper with an Indonesian perspective. The objective of the new publication is to present to the public that a newspaper of the highest quality will provide its readers with all the news that are not only fit to be printed, but also fit to be read. It will also sharpen their insight into a great knowledge about this vast archipelago, its people and its government, as members of the great family of nations.

In each edition, *The Jakarta Post* contains (in average) twenty pages, but in special edition, it can reach twenty four pages or even thirty two pages. The composition of *Sunday edition* is different from other days. Below is the page structure of *The Jakarta Post*

The Pages of *The Jakarta Post* in December 2008

NO	NON-SUNDAY		SUNDAY	
	Contents	Pages	Contents	Pages
1	Headlines	1-3	Headlines	1
2	City	4-5	News	2
3	Editorial	6	Current Issues	3
4	Opinion	7	People	4
5	The archipelago	8	Lifestyle	5
6	National	9	Focus issue	6-7
7	World	10-12	Art & Design	8-9
8	Business	13-16	Music	10
9	Environment	17	Mosaic	11
10	Classifieds	18-19	Screen	12
11	Special Report	20	Fashion	13
12	Entertainment Guide	21	Sports	14-15
13	Sports	22-23	Travel	16
14	People	24	Bookmarks	17
15			Classifieds	18-19
16			Supplement	20
17			Heritage Life	21
18			Fairy tale	22
19			Entertainment guide	23
20			Images	24

In a special edition, sometimes the publisher adds some news information columns or pages. In addition, in a special edition, there is WEEKENDERS or YOUTHSPEAKS magazines included in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper. It is published once in two weeks.

Dealing with the research, the data of ambiguity is taken from every ambiguous words, phrases, and sentences in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* in Thursday, December 11, 2008.

## **F. Review of Related Study**

There are two researches found in English Department Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts, University of Sebelas Maret, which have close relation to this research.

The first research was conducted by Khusnul Khotimah (1995) entitled “Analisis Ketaksaan pada Headlines dalam Harian *The Indonesian Times* Edisi Bulan Juli Tahun 1995”.

This research focuses on: a. what kinds of patterns of ambiguity are found in headlines of *The Indonesian Times*, and b. which ambiguity frequently appears in the headlines of *The Indonesian Times*. The outputs of the research are:

a. There are ten patterns of syntactical ambiguity.

- Adj + N in poss case + N
- Adj + N<sub>1</sub> + N<sub>2</sub>
- Mdr (N/Adj) + N
- N<sub>1</sub> + N<sub>2</sub> + N<sub>3</sub>
- Adj + series of N

- Mdr (Present participle / Gerund) + N
  - Adj + N<sub>1</sub> + Conj + N<sub>2</sub>
  - Complete parallel structure
  - Mdr + 2 groups of Mdr word
  - Pronoun
- b. Syntactical ambiguity frequently appears in the headlines of *The Indonesian Times* published in July 1995 (lexical ambiguity 23,5%, syntactical ambiguity 76,25%)

Second research was done by Retno Kusumo Dewi (2008) entitled “An Analysis of Ambiguity in the News titles of *The Jakarta Post*”. She analyzed the kinds of ambiguity found in the news titles of *The Jakarta Post* published in January 2008. Besides, she analyzed what makes the ambiguity and how meaning conveyed in the ambiguity if the news titles. The research results:

- a. There are two kinds of ambiguity arise in the news titles of *The Jakarta Post*, lexical and grammatical ambiguity. About 69 lexical ambiguity and 14 grammatical ambiguity or 83, 13% of lexical ambiguity and 16, 87% grammatical ambiguity found in the news titles. Lexical ambiguity is more heterogeneous than grammatical ambiguity.
- b. Lexical ambiguity is caused by homonymy and polysemy. Most of lexical ambiguity caused by homonymy (91, 30%) than polysemy (8, 70%). While,

grammatical ambiguity is caused by three factors, grammatical word form (35, 71%), equivocal phrasing (57, 14%), and contextual ambiguity (7, 14%).

- c. The interpretation of the lexical and grammatical ambiguity demands the specific context. In this case, the exact meaning of lexical and grammatical ambiguity in the news titles can be clearly understood by reading the whole text.

Finally, this last research which the writer conducted is to analyze ambiguity from the different source. The research is expected to identify the kinds of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. It is also intended to figure out the causal factors of the ambiguity in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. Furthermore, this research discusses about the interpretations arising in the ambiguous words and sentences found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. The data are taken from the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published on Thursday, December 11, 2008.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In doing research, the researcher needs a method to conduct analysis. Research methodology is the way of the researcher doing analysis to get the result of analysis and draw conclusion. Here is the research methodology using by the researcher.

#### **A. Type of Methodology**

The descriptive qualitative research that refers to the method to formulate the conclusion by collecting, classifying, and interpreting the data were applied to this research. In descriptive research, the writer arranged the research systematically, based on the fact of the data (Usman and Akbar, 1996: 4). The researcher only needed to describe the data based on the problem statements and found out the result of the problem statements.

Moreover, Djajasudarma (1993: 15) states that in descriptive qualitative research, the data collected are not in numerical data, it can be in the form of words or pictures. In this case, the researcher was interested to analyze the articles (words, phrases, and sentences) of *The Jakarta Post*. This research discussed about the kinds of ambiguity, the causal factors of ambiguity, and the interpretations arise in the ambiguous words and sentences found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*, published on Thursday, December 11, 2008.

## **B. Data and Data Sources**

The data of the research might be in form of discourse, sentence, clause, word, or even morpheme (Subroto, 1992: 42-43). Source of data could be newspaper, magazine, literary work, column, even line.

The sources of data of this research were *The Jakarta Post* newspaper because it's the greatest daily English newspaper published in Indonesia. Hence, some articles of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper published On Thursday, December 11, 2008 were used as the data of this research.

## **C. Sample and Technique Sampling**

Sample is part of the population which is investigated; while sampling is the activity of collecting sampling (Sutrisno, 1978:75). Moreover, Nawawi, (1995:141) states that sample are collected based on the technique of sampling that is employed in the research while population is all research objects (human beings, things, animals, plants, phenomena, test values, or events) as the sources of data which have special characteristic in research.

This research used total sampling technique. The samples were all data which suitable to the field study. The data were taken from the articles (15 articles) of *The Jakarta Post*, Thursday, December 11, 2008 edition. There were 23 data found in these articles (8 data of lexical ambiguity and 15 data of grammatical ambiguity).

These 23 data represented each factor from each type of ambiguity. Subsequently, each type still have a certain characteristic, they were:



1. Lexical ambiguity (8 data), consists of:
  - a. Polysemy, 6 data: 3 data with 2 interpretations and 3 data have 3 interpretations.
  - b. Homonym, 2 data: each datum has 2 interpretations.
2. Grammatical ambiguity (15 data) consists of:
  - a. Equivocal phrasing, 15 data have 2 interpretations (1 datum with two grammatical ambiguities).

#### **D. Research Design**

This research was conducted based on several steps, as follows:

1. Collected the data sources, *The Jakarta Post* newspaper published on Thursday, December 11, 2008.
2. Read and identified the articles of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper contain the ambiguous words, phrases or sentences.
3. Took 15 articles of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper published on Thursday, December 11, 2008.
4. Classified and coded the data based on the type of ambiguity (lexical ambiguity and grammatical ambiguity).
5. Analyzed and interpreted the data to answer the problem statements.
6. Drawn conclusions.

### **E. Technique of Collecting Data**

The data were collected from the written sources. In this case the data were the articles of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper published in Thursday, December 11, 2008. The researcher read the articles and found out the words, phrases and sentences which were considered as ambiguity. The researcher also interpreted the data to find out the right interpretation of the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences.

### **F. Research Data Coding**

The researcher made the classification for the data by coding each datum. It helped the researcher in analyzing and interpreting the data. The data coding of this research was as follows:

e. g.: 016/LA/D11/P16/T10

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger toll on emerging Asia*

016 : The number of data

LA : The Type of ambiguity, LA stands for Lexical Ambiguity and GA stands for Grammatical Ambiguity.

D11 : The date of the data, *The Jakarta Post*, December 11, 2008.

P1 : The number of the page which the data taken from.

T10 : The article number

## G. Technique of Analyzing Data

The data were analyzed in several steps, as follows:

1. Classified the data based on the types of ambiguity (lexical and grammatical ambiguity) and found out the types of ambiguity dominating the data.
2. Analyzed the causal factors of ambiguity and found out the most factors causing ambiguity.
3. Described the interpretations conveyed in the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences.
4. Drawn conclusions.

Example:

016/LA/D11/P1/T10

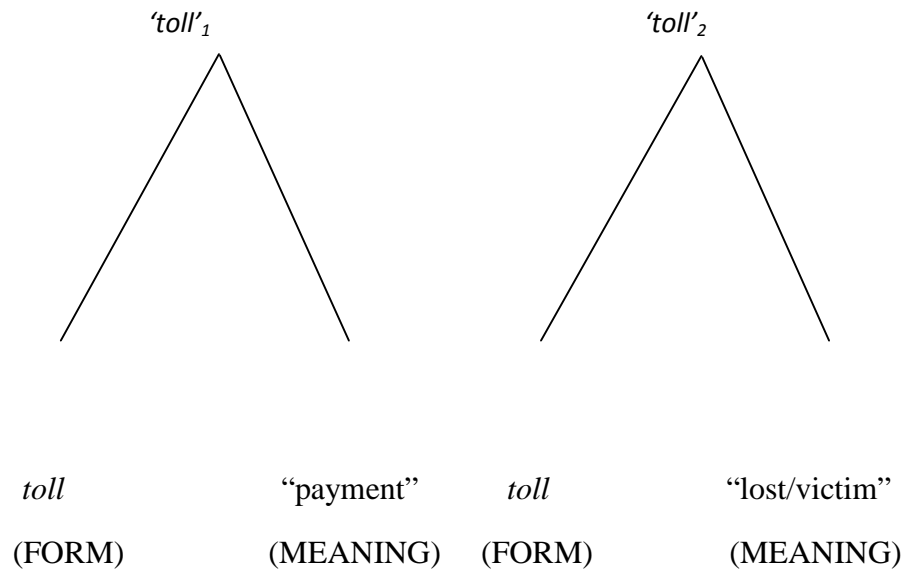
*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger **toll** on emerging Asia*

### 1. Data Description

There is lexical ambiguity found in the sentence “*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger **toll** on emerging Asia*”. It is the case of homonym where single word has more than one meaning. The word ‘*toll*’ is considered as the ambiguous one and it causes the different interpretations of the readers.

## 2. Ambiguity Interpretations

As homonym, the word ‘*toll*’ has more than one meaning:



Referring to some definitions of the word ‘*toll*’, the readers may have the different interpretation to the sentence including in the article. There are some possible interpretations:

### a. First Interpretation

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger payment on emerging Asia*

### b. Second Interpretation

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger lost on emerging Asia.*

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **ANALYSIS**

Chapter IV is a part of analysis. This chapter answers the problem statements stated in the Chapter I based on the theory in Chapter II. Here are the analyses of the data.

#### **A. Introduction**

In this part, the researcher analyzes and discusses the data. Once more, the aims of this research are to find out the kinds of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*, to figure out the causal factors of the ambiguity, and to describe the interpretations which arise in the ambiguous words and sentences in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published in Thursday, December 11, 2008.

The analysis is divided into three subchapters; Introduction, Data Analysis, and Discussion. The first subchapter provides the outline of how research analysis is discussed. The second subchapter, Data Analysis discusses the data and it is also divided into two sections:

1. Data Description
2. Ambiguity Interpretations

In the third subchapter, Discussion, the researcher discusses about the interpretation of all data.

## **B. Data Analysis**

### **001/GA/D11/P1/T1 and 002/GA/D11/P1/T1**

*A total of 700 athletes and officials from 44 countries are taking part in the tournament, which will run until Saturday.*

There are two grammatical ambiguities found in the sentence above. Both grammatical ambiguities lead the readers to have the different interpretations.

First grammatical ambiguity arise in the phrase '*700 athletes and officials*'.

#### **1. Data Description**

There is grammatical ambiguity found in the sentence above. '*700 athletes and officials*' phrase is considered as the ambiguous one. It is considered as the equivocal phrasing case which leads the readers to have the different interpretations.

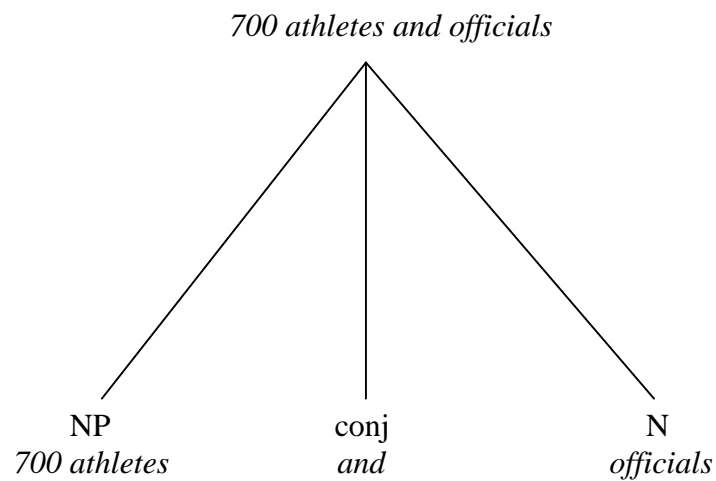
#### **2. Ambiguity Interpretation**

As ambiguous one, '*700 athletes and officials*' phrase has some interpretations, so that it demands the deep thinking. The readers need to know whether the nominal '*700*' modifies the word '*athletes*' only or both of '*athletes*' and '*officials*' (as a total amount of athletes and officials).

Therefore, the interpretations are:

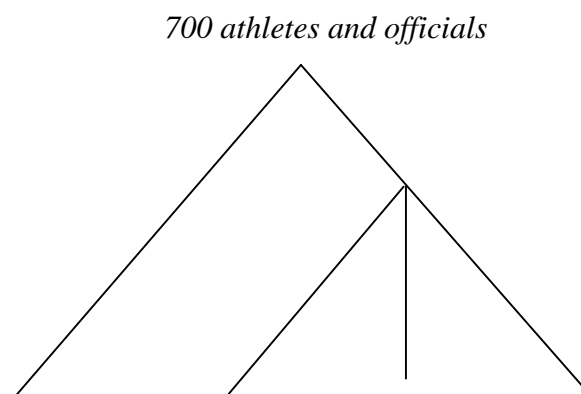
a. First interpretation

*A total of (700 athletes) and officials from 44 countries are taking part in the tournament, which will run until Saturday.*



b. Second interpretation

*A total of the participants who join in the tournament which will run until Saturday are 700 participants consist of the athletes and the official from 44 countries.*



Nom	N	conj	N
700	athletes	and	officials

Two interpretations above may be thought by the readers. In the first interpretation, the nominal '700' explains the noun 'athletes' only. The readers may think that there are 700 athletes (from many kinds of game) and also many officials who are not mentioned how many officials taking part in the tournament which will run until Saturday. Yet, in the second interpretation the nominal '700' modifies both noun 'athletes' and 'officials' or as the total of athletes and officials. The sentence means that 700 participants consisting of the athletes plus officials from 44 countries are taking part in the tournament which will run until Saturday. To figure out the right interpretation of the sentence, the readers have to understand the topic and read the paragraph which supports the sentence.

Second grammatical ambiguity arises in the phrase '*from 44 countries*'.

#### 1. Data Description

Phrase '*from 44 countries*' lead the readers to interpret the sentence in many ways. They may be confused in modifying the phrase, whether modifies the word '*officials*' only or '*700 athletes*' also.

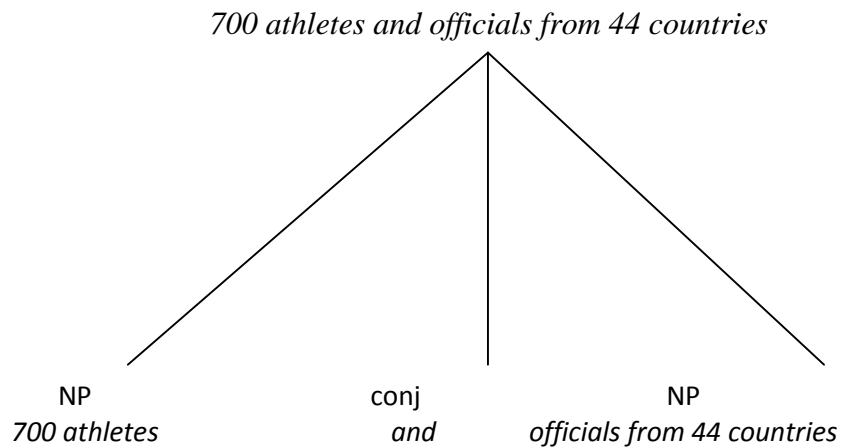
#### 2. Ambiguity Interpretations

Based on the data description above, the interpretations are:

##### a. First interpretation

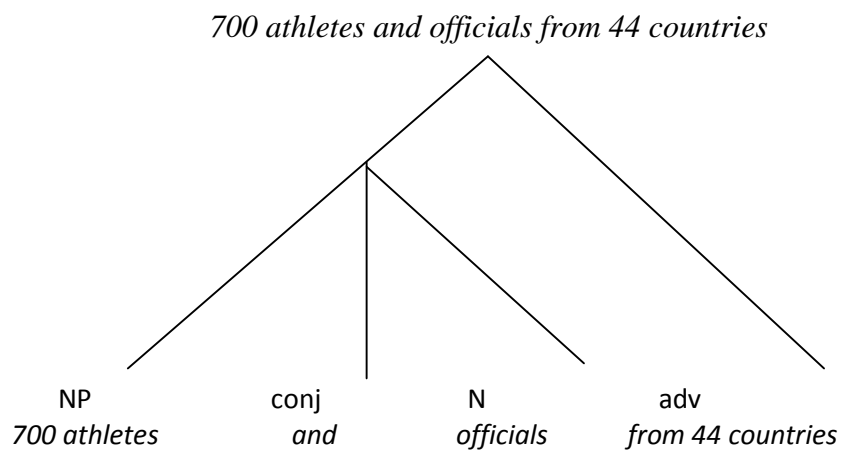


*A total of 700 athletes and officials (the officials come from 44 countries) are taking part in the tournament, which will run until Saturday.*



*b. Second interpretation*

*A total of 700 athletes and officials (700 athletes and officials come from 44 countries) are taking part in the tournament, which will run until Saturday.*



*The inaugural session, entitled “Building and Consolidating Democracy: A Strategic Agenda for Asia”, was attended by foreign ministers and delegates from at least 32 countries.*

## 1. Data Description

There is grammatical ambiguity found in the sentence above. It is equivocal phrasing case. ‘*Foreign ministers and delegates from at least 32 countries*’ is considered as the ambiguous one.

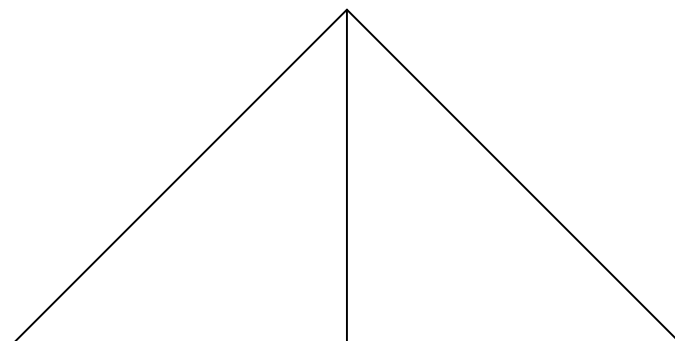
## 2. Ambiguity Interpretations

It is confusing in modifying the phrase ‘*Foreign ministers and delegates from at least 32 countries*’. The readers may be confused whether the adverb ‘*from at least 32 countries*’ modifies the word ‘*delegates*’ only or ‘*foreign ministers*’ also. However, the readers may interpret the sentence into:

### a. First interpretation

*The inaugural session, entitled “Building and Consolidating Democracy: A Strategic Agenda for Asia”, was attended by foreign ministers and delegates (from at least 32 countries).*

*foreign ministers and delegates from at least 32 countries.*





session, entitled “Building and Consolidating Democracy: A Strategic Agenda for Asia”, was attended by foreign ministers and delegates (both foreign ministers and delegates come from at least 32 countries). Ambiguity causes the different interpretation between the readers. However, the readers have to know the topic of the article and read the whole article to get the exact interpretation of the sentence.

#### **004/GA/D11/P6/T3**

*Early this month East Nusa Tenggara police arrested 13 Afghan and Pakistani illegal migrants.*

##### **1. Data Description**

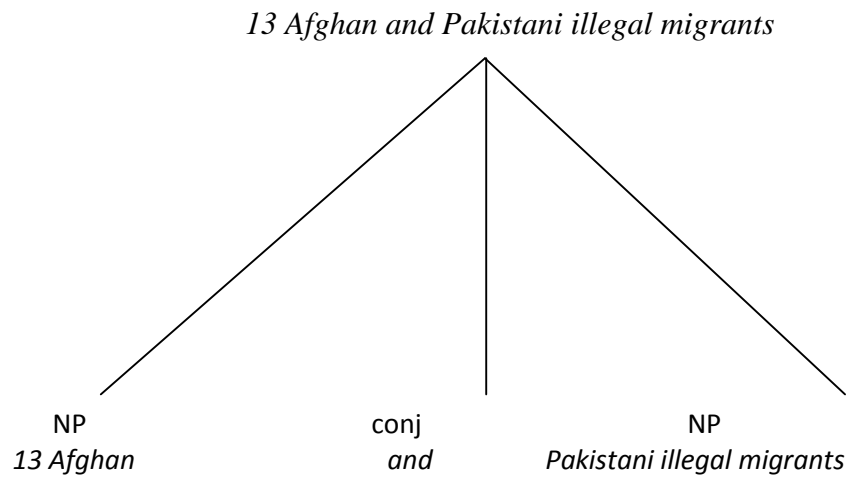
Just like the case before, it is grammatical ambiguity in the case of equivocal phrasing. ‘13 Afghan and Pakistani illegal migrants’ phrase is considered as the ambiguous one. The readers need to know whether the nominal ‘13’ modifies the noun ‘Afghan’ only or ‘Pakistani illegal migrants’ also.

##### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

Therefore, the interpretations are:

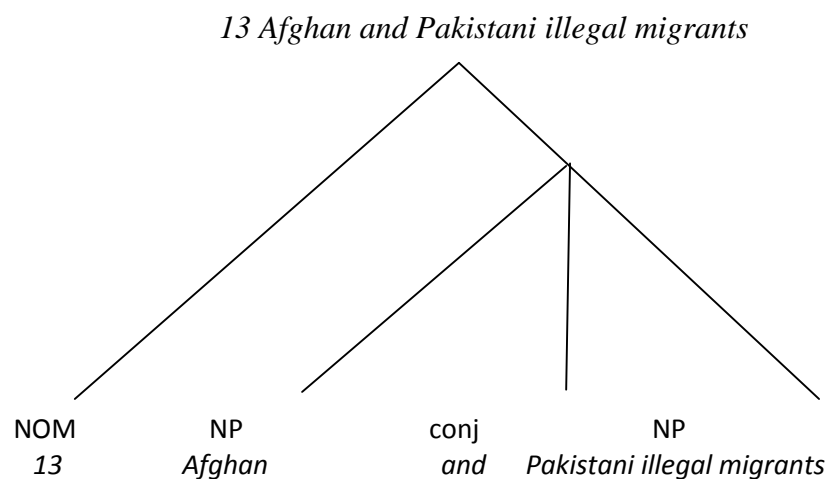
###### **a. First interpretation**

*Early this month East Nusa Tenggara police arrested Afghan which the amount are 13 and Pakistani illegal migrants.*



b. Second interpretation

*Early this month East Nusa Tenggara police arrested Afghan and Pakistani illegal migrants which the amounts are 13*



Two interpretations above may be thought by the readers. To figure out the exact interpretation and the exact meaning of the sentence, the readers

have to read the whole paragraph and understand the topic of the article. In the first interpretation, nominal '*13*' modifies the noun '*Afghan*' only, yet in the second interpretation, it modifies both words '*Afghan*' and '*Pakistani illegal migrants*'.

### **005/GA/D11/P6/T3**

*It estimates that 100,000 women and children are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad.*

#### **1. Data Description**

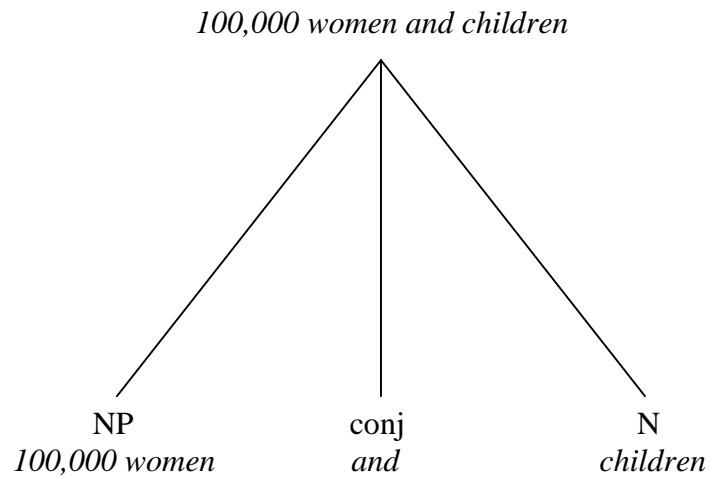
Ambiguity is also found in the sentence above. Again, it is the case of grammatical ambiguity caused by equivocal phrasing. '*100,000 women and children*' phrase is considered as the ambiguous one and it causes the different interpretation.

#### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

The readers may be doubt or confused in modifying the phrase '*100,000 women and children*'. The readers may be confused whether nominal '*100,000*' modifies the noun '*women*' only or as the total amount of the women and children. The readers may interpret the sentence into:

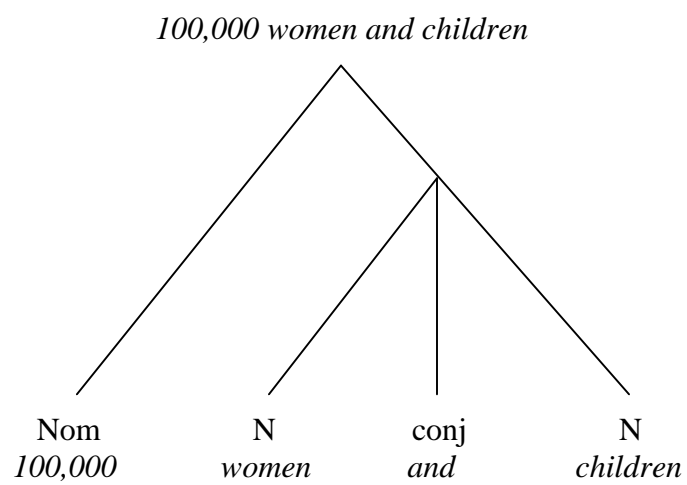
##### **a. First interpretation**

*It estimates that (100,000 women) and children are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad.*



b. Second interpretation

*It estimates that 100,000 (women and children) are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad*



In the first interpretation, the nominal ‘100,000’ explains the noun ‘women’ while in the second interpretation; it explains the total amount of both words ‘women’ and ‘children’. However, the first interpretation means that there are 100,000 women are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad, and there are also many children (it is not explained how many children) are trafficked annually for the same purpose. Meanwhile, in the second interpretation, the sentence means that there are 100,000 of women plus children are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad. The amount of the women and children who are trafficked in Indonesia and abroad is 100,000 every year.

Knowing the topic and reading the article can help the readers getting the right interpretation. In this case, the right interpretation is in the second interpretation ‘*It estimates that 100,000 (women and children) are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad.*’

**006/GA/D11/P6/T3**

***Indonesian women and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.***

## 2. Data Description

Just like the case before, it is also the case of grammatical ambiguity where the phrase of the sentence creates ambiguity because of the equivocal



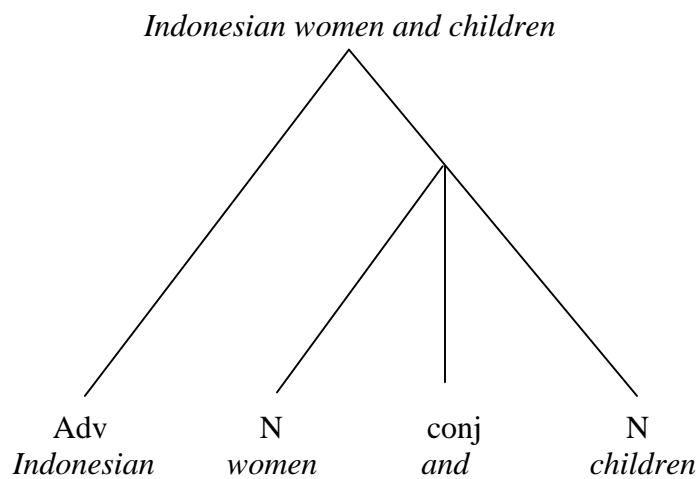
phrasing. ‘*Indonesian women and children*’ phrase is consider as the ambiguous one and it can be interpreted in many ways.

### 3. Ambiguity Interpretations

Based on the description above, the interpretations are:

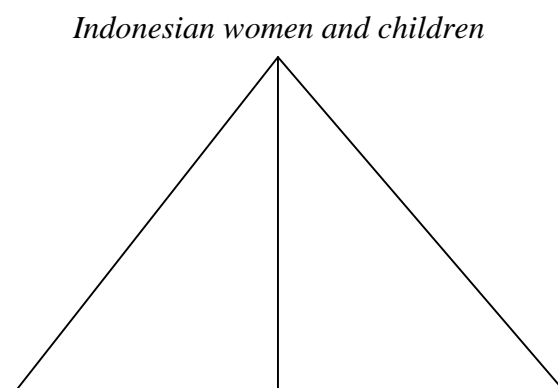
#### a. First interpretation

*Indonesian women and Indonesian children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*



#### b. Second interpretation

*Women from Indonesia and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*



NP	conj	N
<i>Indonesian women</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>children</i>

Being ambiguous means having more than one interpretation. In the case above, the readers have two interpretations due to the grammatical ambiguity caused by equivocal phrasing. Those two possible interpretations try to answer the ambiguity which arises in the sentence '*Indonesian women and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation*'. In the first interpretation the word '*Indonesian*' modifies both words '*women*' and '*children*'. It means that the women and children who are trafficked come from the same area or country of Indonesia. Meanwhile, in the second interpretation, the word '*Indonesian*' only modifies the noun '*women*'. It means that the children who are also trafficked do not have the specific adverb whether they come from Indonesia or not. However, the readers have to understand the right interpretation to get the message of the article or to get the exact information. Here is the paragraph which supports the readers to get the right interpretation:

*UNICEF says Indonesia is not just a transit, but also a primary source and destination for human trafficking. It estimates that 100,000 women and children are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad. Nearly one-third of the female prostitutes in Indonesia are below 18, and 40,000 to 70,000 children in the country are victims of sexual exploitation.*

From the paragraph above, the readers may know that the writer tends to say about the meaning of the phrase '*Indonesian women and children*' as refers to women from Indonesia and children from Indonesia.

#### **007/GA/D11/P7/T4**

Despite *relevant education and experience*, women still struggle for recognition of their ability to serve in public office.

##### **1. Data Description**

It is also the case of grammatical ambiguity caused by equivocal phrasing. '*Relevant education and experience*' phrase is considered as the ambiguous one. The readers may have different interpretation of the sentence.

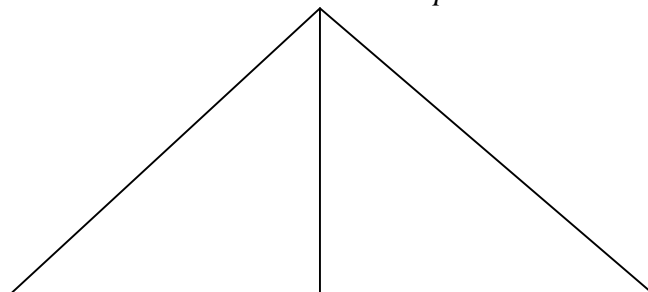
##### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

In this case, the readers need to know whether the adjective '*relevant*' modifies the noun '*education*' only or both words '*education*' and '*experience*'. Therefore, the interpretations are:

###### **a. First interpretation**

*Despite education which is relevant and experience, women still struggle for recognition of their ability to serve in public office.*

*Relevant education and experience*





## 1. Data Description

The sentence “*Largely, they (men) view women as only able to serve in domestic role*” is considered as lexical ambiguity. It is shown by the word ‘*serve*’ which has more than one definition. It represents the case of polysemy.

## 2. Ambiguity Interpretations

Considering as polysemy, the word ‘*serve*’ has some meanings:

- To work for
- To spend the time
- To give food to
- To help a customer

Based on some definitions dealing with the word ‘*serve*’, the sentence may be interpreted into:

### a. First interpretation

“*Largely, they (men) view women as only able to work in domestic role*”.

### b. Second interpretation.

*“Largely, they (men) view women as only able to spend the time in domestic role”.*

c. Third interpretation

*“Largely, they (men) view women as only able to help in domestic role”.*

**009/GA/D11/P10/T5**

*Most recently, **China’s internet and media** attacked the government of a city in central China’s Henan province.*

1. Data Descriptions

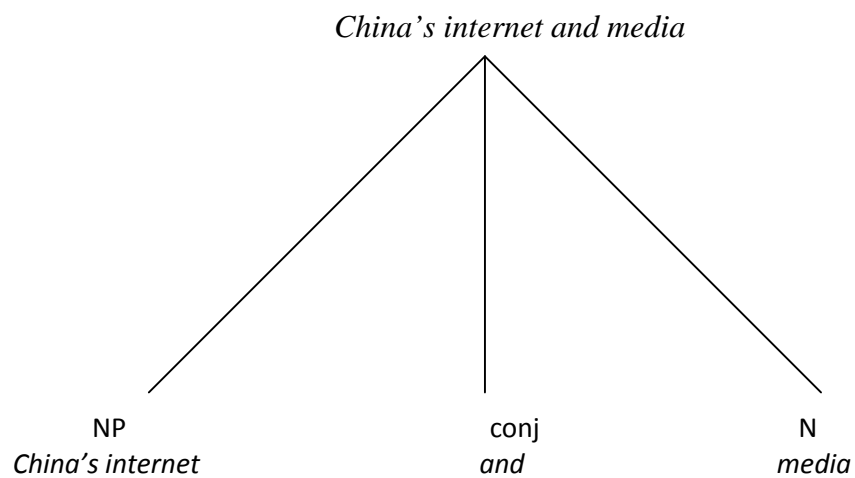
There is grammatical ambiguity found in the sentence above. It is equivocal phrasing case and it leads the readers to have the different interpretation. Phrase ‘*China’s internet and media*’ is considered as grammatical ambiguity since the phrase can be interpreted in more than one ways.

2. Ambiguity Interpretations

The readers need to know whether the word ‘*China*’ modifies the word ‘*internet*’ only or ‘*media*’ also. Therefore, the interpretations which may arise:

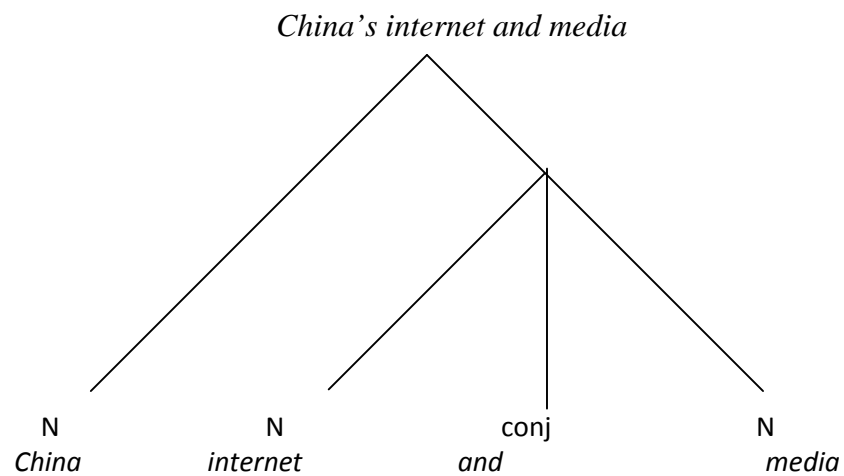
a. First interpretation

*Most recently, internet of China and media attacked the government of a city in central China's Henan province.*



b. Second interpretation

*Most recently, internet of China and media of China attacked the government of a city in central China's Henan province.*



**010/LA/D11/P12/T6**

*More than 2 million Muslims performing the haj pilgrimage entered the final stage of the rituals.*

1. Data Description

Just like the case before, it is lexical ambiguity in the case of polysemy. The word ‘stage’ is considered as the ambiguous one. It leads the readers to have the different interpretations.

2. Ambiguity Interpretations

As a homonym the word ‘stage’ has some meanings.

Stage (n):

- A platform or an area usually in theatre (n)
- A place where an important events occur (n)
- A part of a journey or race(n)

Therefore, based on the definitions of the word ‘stage’ above, the sentence may be interpreted into:

a. First interpretation

*More than 2 million Muslims performing the haj pilgrimage entered the final place of the rituals.*



b. Second interpretation

*More than 2 million Muslims performing the haj pilgrimage entered the final part of the rituals*

Having more than one interpretations make the readers confused and get misunderstanding. In the case above, the readers may think that what the writer intends to talk about the stage is ‘a place’ or ‘a part of the activities’. To get the right interpretation of the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences, the readers have to know the topic of the article and read the whole article. Here is the paragraph which helps the readers to get the right interpretation:

*More than 2 million Muslims performing the haj pilgrimage entered the final part of the rituals, on Wednesday, visiting Grand Mosque in Mecca and stoning walls representing the devil one more time.*

*For a third day, pilgrims threw stone at the Jamarat Bridge in the valley of Mena outside the Islamic holy city.....*

From the two paragraphs above, the readers may know that what the writer intends to talk about is the stage which refers to the part of the activities in performing haj pilgrimage.

**011/LA/D11/P12/T7 and 012/GA/D11/P12/T7**

*Liu had signed Charter 08, an open **letter** published online calling for democracy in China and signed by more than 300 intellectuals, dissidents and journalists.*

There are two kinds of ambiguity found in the sentence above:

Lexical ambiguity: “*letter*”

Grammatical ambiguity: ‘*300 intellectuals, dissidents, and journalists*’

➤ Lexical ambiguity

1. Data Description

The word ‘*letter*’ is considered as lexical ambiguity caused by polysemy.

There are some meanings of the word ‘*letter*’. The readers may have the different interpretations of the sentence due to lexical ambiguity.

2. Ambiguity interpretations

As polysemy, the word ‘*letter*’ has some meanings:

- a written or printed sign in alphabet
- a written message addressed to someone

Based on the definitions of the word ‘*letter*’, the readers may interpret the sentence into:

- a. *Liu had signed Charter 08, an open written sign published online calling for democracy in China and signed by more than 300 intellectuals, dissidents and journalists.*
- b. *Liu had signed Charter 08, an open written message published online calling for democracy in China and signed by more than 300 intellectuals, dissidents and journalists.*

➤ Grammatical ambiguity

1. Data Description

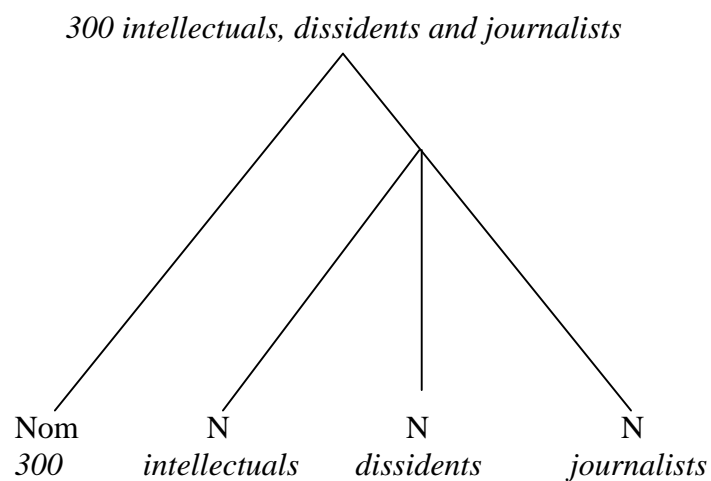
Phrase '*300 intellectuals, dissidents and journalists*' is considered as grammatical ambiguity. The readers need to know whether the nominal '*300*' modifies the word '*intellectuals*' only or as a total amount of '*intellectuals*', '*dissidents*' and '*journalists*'.

2. Ambiguity Interpretations

It will be doubtful in understanding the phrase '*300 intellectuals, dissidents and journalists*'. The readers need to know whether the nominal '*300*' modifies the word '*intellectuals*' only or as a total amount of '*intellectuals*', '*dissidents*' and '*journalists*'. Therefore, the possible interpretations are:

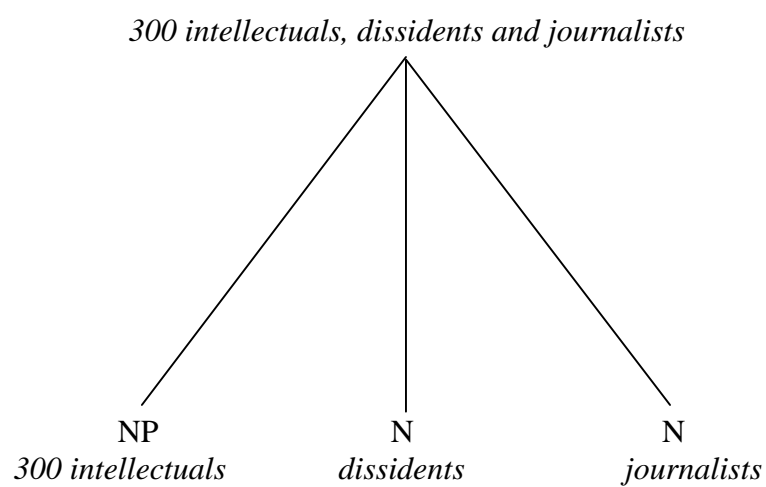
a. First interpretation

*Liu had signed Charter 08, an open letter published online calling for democracy in China and signed by more than 300 of intellectuals, dissidents and journalists (the total amount of the signature are 300, all from intellectuals, dissidents, and journalists).*



b. Second interpretation

*Liu had signed Charter 08, an open letter published online calling for in China and signed by more than (300 of intellectuals), dissidents and journalists.*



Based on the possible interpretations above, the readers need to know the right interpretation of the sentence to get the message conveyed in the ambiguous sentence in the article. The readers can read the whole paragraph and relates it with the topic of the article and the context of situation.

### **013/GA/D11/P14/T8**

*The rupiah may weaken to 12,000 by March, according to the median estimates of 21 analysts and strategies in a Bloomberg News Survey.*

#### **1. Data Description**

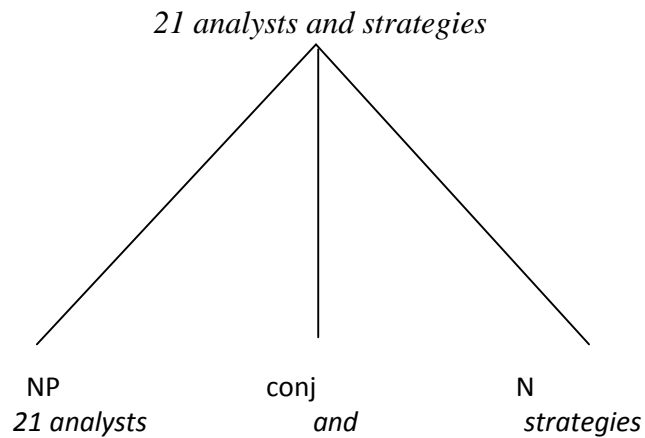
It is also the case of grammatical ambiguity caused by equivocal phrasing. ‘21 analysts and strategies’ phrase is considered as the ambiguity. The readers need to know whether the nominal ‘21’ modifies the noun ‘analysts’ only or modifies both words ‘analysts’ and ‘strategies’ (as a total of the whole of the analysts and strategies).

#### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

Therefore, the interpretations which may arise are:

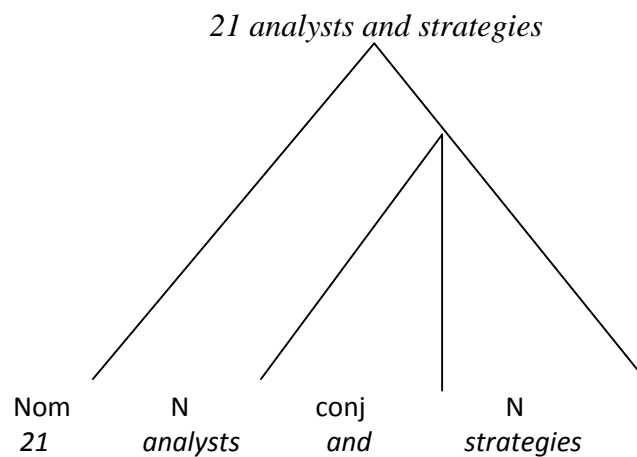
##### **a. First interpretation**

*The rupiah may weaken to 12,000 by March, according to the median estimates of (21 analysts) and strategies in a Bloomberg News Survey.*



b. Second interpretation

*The rupiah may weaken to 12,000 by March, according to the median estimates of 21 (analysts and strategies) in a Bloomberg News Survey.*



Being ambiguous means having more than one interpretation. In the case above, the readers are faced to the two interpretations which are confusing. The readers have to know the topic of the article and read the whole paragraph to get the right interpretation. In the first interpretation, the nominal '21' modifies the noun 'analysts' only. It means that there are analysts which amount 21 and many strategies (which are not mentioned how

many strategies) estimating about the rupiah that may weaken in March. In the second interpretation, the nominal '21' is as the total of the 'analysts' plus 'strategies'. The interpretation means that there are analysts and strategies calculated into 21, estimating the rupiah may weaken in the March.

#### **014/LA/D11/P20/T9**

*..food and beverages has been limited to certain designated **ports** to help protect local producers.*

#### **1. Data Description**

Polysemy is one of the factors of the lexical ambiguity. In the sentence above, lexical ambiguity is found in the case of polysemy. The word 'port' is considered as polysemy since the word 'port' has some definitions.

#### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

As polysemy, there are definitions dealing with the word 'port':

- Town or city with a harbor.
- A place where ships load and unload.
- The side of a ship or an aircraft.

Being ambiguous means having more than one interpretation. Here, the readers may think that the word 'port' refers to the town with the harbor, a

place where ships load and unload, or the side of a ship or an aircraft.

Therefore, the interpretations which may arise are:

a. First interpretation

*..food and beverages has been limited to certain designated place where ships load and unload to help protect local producers.*

b. Second interpretation

*..food and beverages has been limited to certain designated town which has a harbor to help protect local producers.*

In the case of ambiguity of the word “*port*”, there is no word class inferring the interpretations. The interpretations come from the word “*port*” as (only) noun which has some meanings. To understand the exact meaning of the word “*port*” the readers may read the paragraph below:

*Since early this year, entry for imports of products such as shoes, textiles, electronics and food and beverages has been limited to certain designated ports to help protect local producers.*

From the paragraph, the readers know that what the writer intends to talk about is the word “*port*” which refers to the town which has harbor. The word ‘*import*’ supports the exact meaning of the word “*port*”, because people know the import-export activity occurs in the town with a harbor.



*Domestic Goods Usage Intensification (P3DN) has begun inviting officials from the **relevant ministries and institutions** to help formulate standards.*

## 1. Data Description

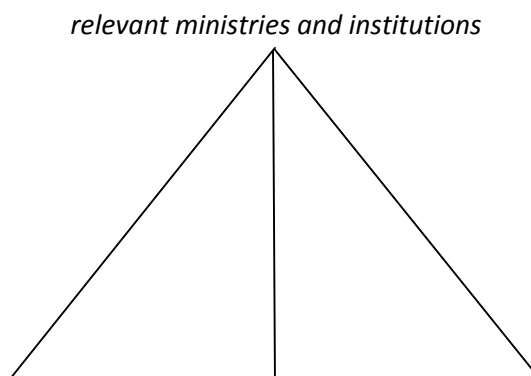
Again, it is the cases of grammatical ambiguity, where the structure of phrase or clause can be interpreted in many ways. It is caused by equivocal phrasing of ‘*relevant ministries and institutions*’. It is unclear enough whether the word ‘*relevant*’ modifies the word ‘*ministries*’ only or both words ‘*ministries*’ and ‘*institutions*’.

## 2. Ambiguity Interpretations

Based on the data description above, the interpretations are:

### a. First interpretation

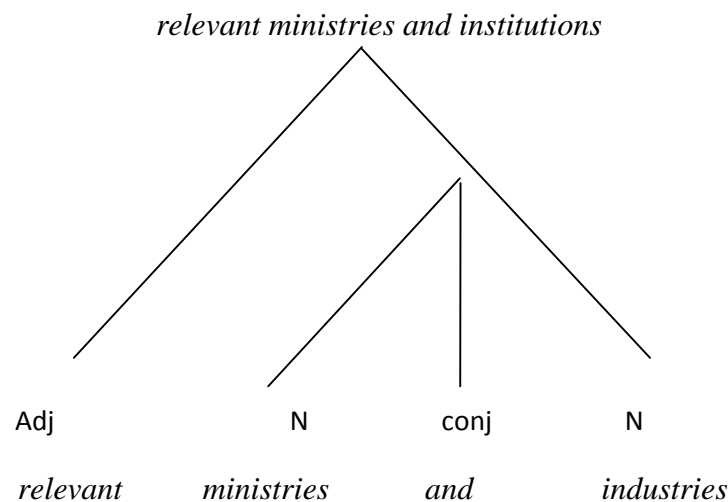
*Domestic Goods Usage Intensification (P3DN) has begun inviting officials from the (relevant ministries) and institutions to help formulate standards.*



NP		conj		N
<i>relevant ministries</i>		<i>and</i>		<i>institutions</i>

b. Second interpretation

*Domestic Goods Usage Intensification (P3DN) has begun inviting officials from the ministries which are relevant and institutions which are also relevant to help formulate standards.*



Based on the two different interpretations above, the readers can conclude which the suitable interpretation for the sentence. The readers may clearly understand from the statements below:

*Industry Minister Fahmi Idris, appointed to lead the national team on Domestic Goods Usage Intensification (P3DN), has begun officials from the relevant ministries and institutions to help formulate standards.*

*Fahmi has so far invited the state minister for administrative reform, the education minister, the National Police chief and the Indonesian Military (TNI) chief.*

From the two paragraphs above, the readers may conclude that the Industry Minister, Fahmi Idris, appointed to lead the national team on Domestic Goods Usage Intensification (P3DN), has begun officially from the relevant ministries and also the relevant institutions such as state minister for administrative reform, the education minister, the National Police chief and the Indonesian Military (TNI) chief, to help formulate standard.

#### **016/LA/D11/P16/T10**

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger **toll** on emerging Asia.*

#### **2. Data Description**

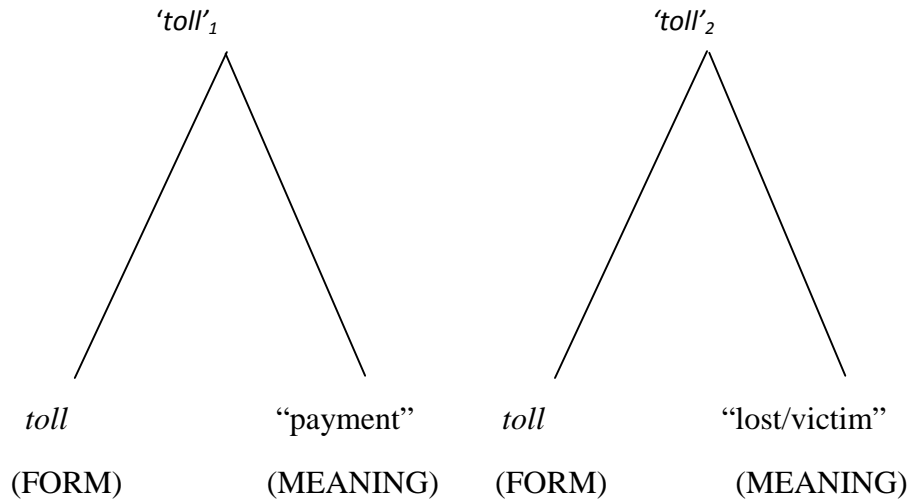
There is lexical ambiguity found in the sentence above. It is the case of homonym. The word '*toll*' has more than one meaning which can cause the different interpretations.

#### **3. Ambiguity Interpretations**

There are some meanings of the word '*toll*':

- Payment required for the use of a road, bridge, harbor, etc.

-Lost or victim



Based on the definitions of the word '*toll*', the readers may think that the word '*toll*' refers to a payment for road, bridge, harbor, or the lost or victim. The interpretations which may arise are as follows:

a. First interpretation

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may need or require a bigger payment on emerging Asia.*

b. Second interpretation

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may cause a bigger lost on emerging Asia.*

Based on the possible interpretations of the word '*toll*' above, the readers may read the paragraph below to get the right interpretation:

*Other Asian countries like Taiwan and South Korea are teetering on the brink of recession. Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger toll on emerging Asia than the 1997-1998 regional crisis, despite the region's enhanced financial muscle.*

From the paragraph above, the readers know that what the writer intends to talk is the 'toll' refers to the lost or victim which is taken by the global financial turmoil which is happening now on emerging Asia.

#### **017/GA/D11/P16/T10**

*Several economists and government officials said the worse-than-expected trade figures and slumping industrial production and export figures indicate the government will have little choice but to hope for growth to be between 1 percent and 2 percent.*

##### **1. Data Description**

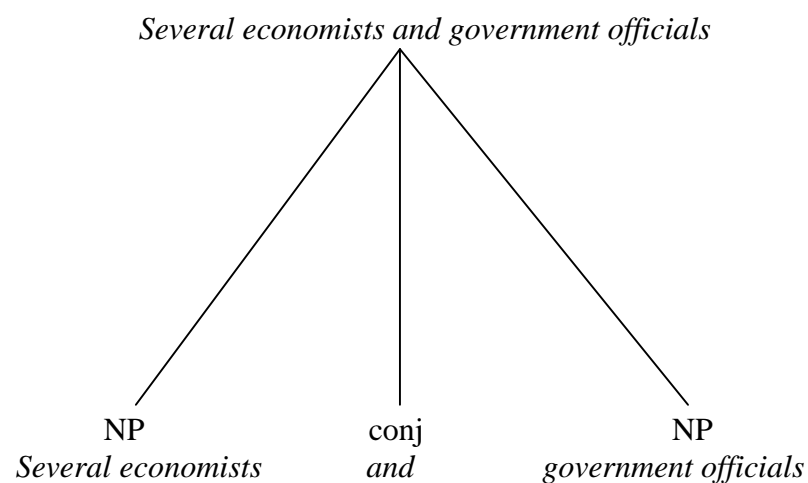
This is also the case of grammatical ambiguity caused by equivocal phrasing. 'Several economists and government officials' phrase is considered as the ambiguous one. This grammatical ambiguity may be interpreted in many ways.

##### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

In this grammatical ambiguity, every word constructing the sentence may have clear combination but the readers may doubt whether the word ‘*several*’ modifies the word ‘*economists*’ only or both words ‘*economists*’ and ‘*government officials*’. ‘*Several economists and government officials*’ phrase may be interpreted in two ways.

a. First interpretation

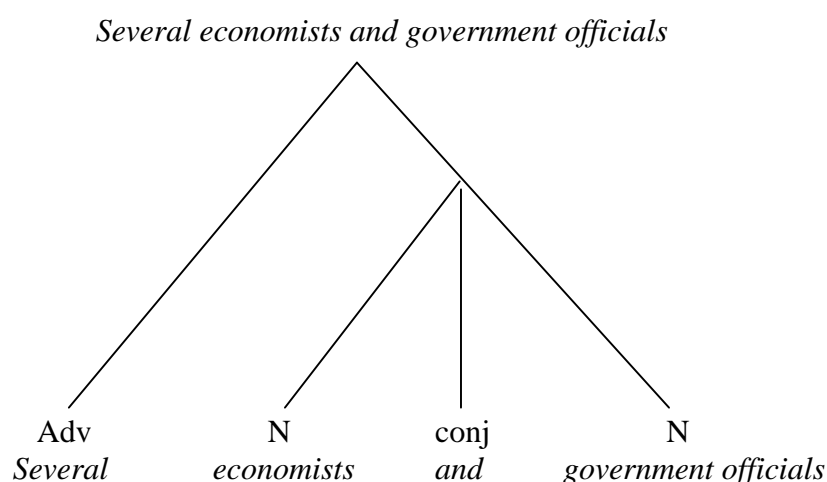
*(Several economists) and (government officials) said the worse-than-expected trade figures and slumping industrial production and export figures indicate the government will have little choice but to hope for growth to be between 1 percent and 2 percent.*



b. Second interpretation

*Several (economists and government officials) said the worse-than-expected trade figures and slumping industrial production and export*

*figures indicate the government will have little choice but to hope for growth to be between 1 percent and 2 percent.*



It is difficult to understand the ambiguity. In this case, in the first interpretation the word ‘*several*’ modifies the word ‘*economist*’ only, yet, in the second interpretation, the word ‘*several*’ modifies both words ‘*economists*’ and ‘*government officials*’. In the first interpretation the amount of the noun ‘*economists*’ are less than the amount of the noun ‘*government officials*’ (there are several economists and many government officials). Meanwhile, in the second interpretation the amount of the noun ‘*economists*’ and ‘*government officials*’ are equal (there are several economists and several government officials). The readers need to dig deeply to know the exact meaning conveyed by the writer. The readers have to read the whole text and relate it with the topic of the text, so that they will get the right interpretation.

## 018/LA/D11/P16/T11

*OZ Minerals Ltd., the world's second-largest zinc mining company that's trying to refinance debt, said it's been approached by a number of **parties** for possible joint ventures or to acquire assets.*

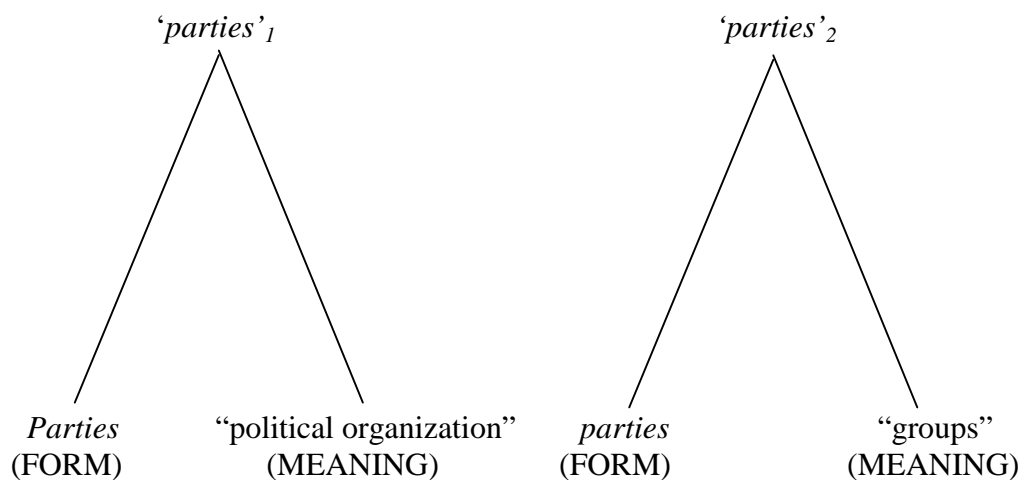
### 1. Data Description

The word '*parties*' is considered as lexical ambiguity in the case of homonym.

Homonym in a sentence may lead the readers to have more than one interpretation.

### 2. Ambiguity Interpretations

As homonym, the word '*parties*' has more than one meaning:





Based on the definitions of the word ‘*parties*’ above, the possible interpretations which may occur are:

a. First interpretation

*OZ Minerals Ltd., the world’s second-largest zinc mining company that’s trying to refinance debt, said it’s been approached by a number of political organizations for possible joint ventures or to acquire assets.*

b. Second interpretation

*OZ Minerals Ltd., the world’s second-largest zinc mining company that’s trying to refinance debt, said it’s been approached by a number of groups for possible joint ventures or to acquire assets.*

To get the right interpretation of the sentence in the article, the readers have to know the topic of the paragraph and the context of the situation. In this case, the readers may relate the sentence with the topic of the article and read the whole article.

**019/LA/D11/P20/T12**

*Cooperating with Beijing may challenge US values, but the **bond** between nations improves global equanimity.*

1. Data Description

Lexical ambiguity is found in the sentence above. It is the case of polysemy. The word '*bond*' is considered as the ambiguous one. The readers may have the different interpretations toward the word '*bond*'.

## 2. Ambiguity Interpretations

There are some definitions of the word '*bond*' (n):

- A force or feeling in joining with groups.
- A certificate.
- Written agreements.
- The ropes or chains or the relationship.

Based on the definitions of the word '*bond*' above, the interpretations which may occur are:

### a. First interpretation

*Cooperating with Beijing may challenge US values, but the force between nations improves global equanimity.*

### b. Second interpretation

*Cooperating with Beijing may challenge US values, but the agreements between nations improves global equanimity*

### c. Third interpretation

*Cooperating with Beijing may challenge US values, but the  
chains/relationship between nations improves global equanimity*

### **020/GA/D11/P20/T13**

*It was obviously a rush job aimed at pacifying anxious **foreign businessmen and journalists** before Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva flew to Davos, Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum last week.*

#### **1. Data Description**

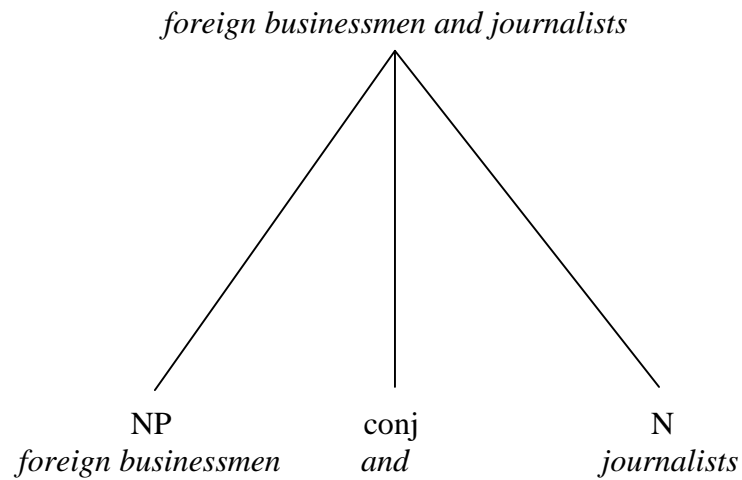
Grammatical ambiguity is found in the sentence above. It is caused by equivocal phrasing of '*foreign businessmen and journalists*' phrase. The readers do not know whether the word '*foreign*' modifies the word '*businessmen*' only or '*journalists*' also. The readers may interpret the sentence more than one way.

#### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

As explained above that the sentence may be interpreted in more than one way, the interpretations which may arise are:

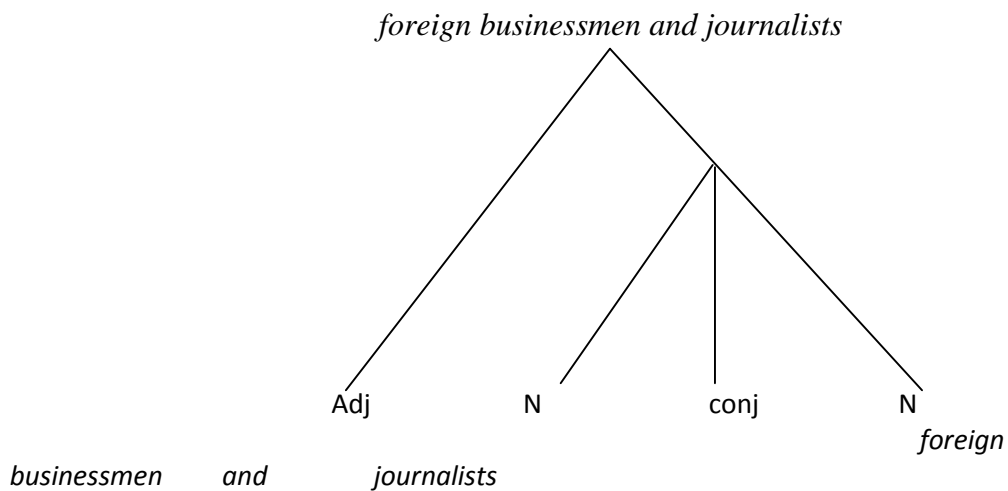
##### **a. First interpretation**

*It was obviously a rush job aimed at pacifying anxious (foreign businessmen) and journalists before Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva flew to Davos, Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum last week.*



b. Second interpretation

*It was obviously a rush job aimed at pacifying anxious foreign (businessmen and journalists) before Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva flew to Davos, Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum last week.*



In the first interpretation, the word '*foreign*' modifies the noun '*businessmen*' which means that the businessmen are come from abroad and the journalists which are not mentioned whether they come from abroad or not. Yet, in the second interpretation, the word '*foreign*' modifies both words

*'businessmen'* and *'journalists'* which means that both of businessmen and the journalists come from abroad.

### **021/GA/D11/P20/T13**

Some government advisers have defended the bill by arguing there is a real need to enact a law that will restore the confidence of *foreign investors and tourists*-and Premier Abhisit, armed with this new piece of proposed legislation-can speak with more credibility than simply issuing verbal assurances.

#### **1. Data Description**

Again, it is the case of grammatical ambiguity caused by equivocal phrasing. Phrase *'foreign investors and tourist'* is considered as the ambiguous one. The readers need to know whether the word *'foreign'* modifies the word *'investors'* only or *'tourists'* also.

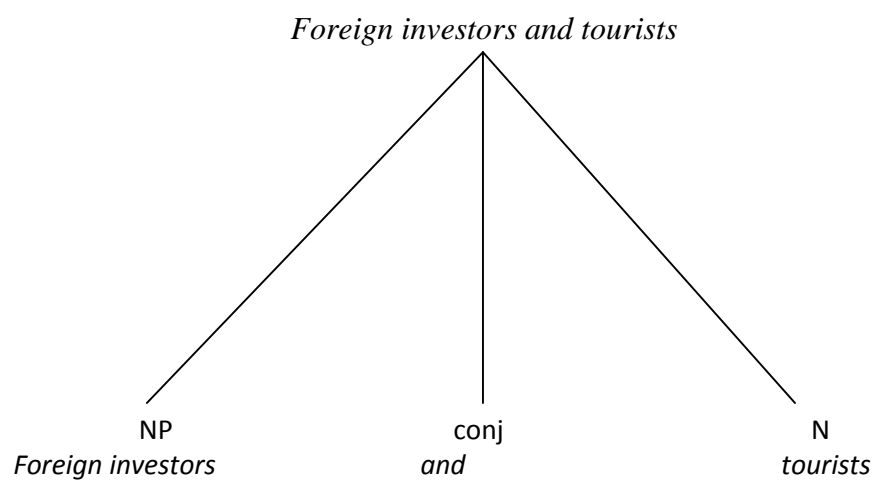
#### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

Therefore, the interpretations which may arise:

##### **a. First interpretation**

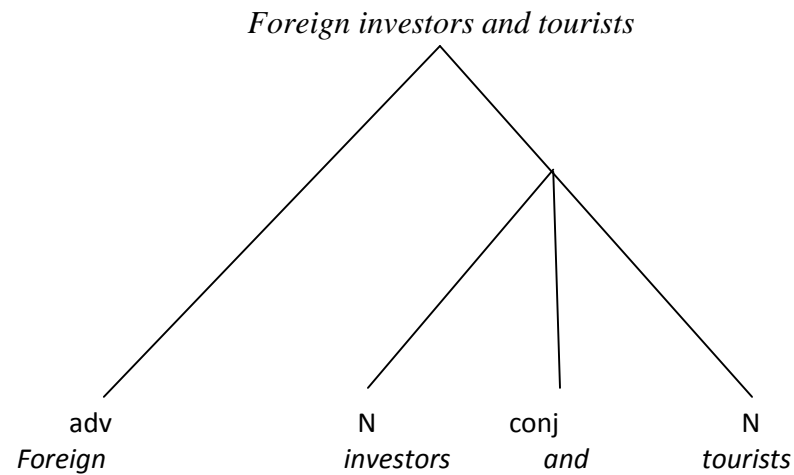
*Some government advisers have defended the bill by arguing there is a real need to enact a law that will restore the confidence of investors who*

*come from abroad and tourists-and Premier Abhisit, armed with this new piece of proposed legislation-can speak with more credibility than simply issuing verbal assurances.*



b. Second interpretation

*Some government advisers have defended the bill by arguing there is a real need to enact a law that will restore the confidence of investors who come from abroad and tourists who also come from abroad -and Premier Abhisit, armed with this new piece of proposed legislation-can speak with more credibility than simply issuing verbal assurances.*



#### **022/LA/D11/P22/T14**

*This year's **course** was made particularly difficult because of the weather.*

#### **1. Data Description**

There is polysemy found in the sentence above. The word '*course*' is considered as polysemy since the word '*course*' has many meanings. The word '*course*' makes the readers confused and moreover, they will interpret the word in many ways.

#### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

Considering as homonymy, the word '*course*' has many meanings:

- Direction or route
- Series of any lessons
- Area of land

- Champion or competition

Being ambiguous means having more than one interpretation. Dealing with the word ‘*course*’, the readers may think that the word ‘*course*’ refers to the direction or route, a series of lessons, area of land or the champion. Therefore, the readers may interpret the sentence into:

- a. First interpretation

*The route of the trip of this year was made particularly difficult because of the weather.*

- b. Second interpretation

*The area of the trip of this year was made particularly difficult because of the weather*

- c. Third interpretation

*The competition of this year was made particularly difficult because of the weather*

Having more than one interpretation makes the readers can not get the exact meaning of the sentence. Besides, the readers may have wrong interpretation due to the ambiguous words and sentences. To figure out the exact meaning of the sentence above, the readers should read the whole paragraph and relates it with the topic of the article. In the case above, the



right interpretation of the sentence is the first interpretation, '*course*' which refers to the route.

## **023/GA/D11/P24/T15**

*The first movement starts with a majestic melody, dominated by **strong cello and bass**.*

### **1. Data Description**

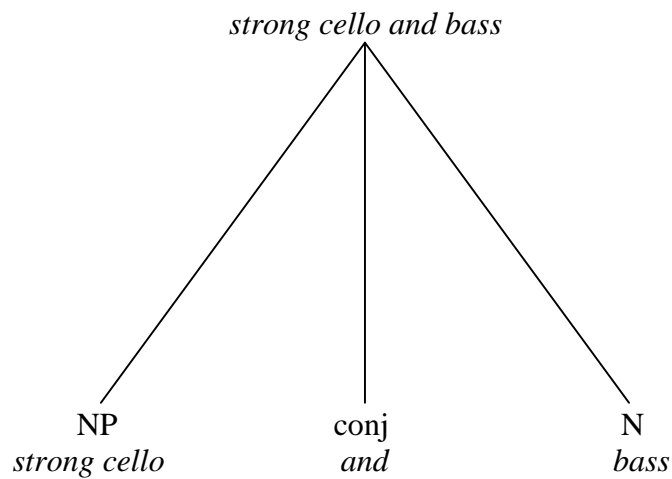
Ambiguity is found in the sentence '*The first movement starts with a majestic melody, dominated by strong cello and bass*'. It is the case of grammatical ambiguity caused by equivocal phrasing. '*Strong cello and bass*' phrase is considered as the ambiguous one. The readers may have the different interpretations due to the ambiguous sentence.

### **2. Ambiguity Interpretations**

As equivocal phrasing, '*strong cello and bass*' phrase can be interpreted in many ways. Every word constructing the sentence has clear combination but it may doubt whether the word '*strong*' modifies the word '*cello*' only or also modifies the word '*bass*'. The readers may have different interpretations based on its problem. Therefore, the interpretations are:

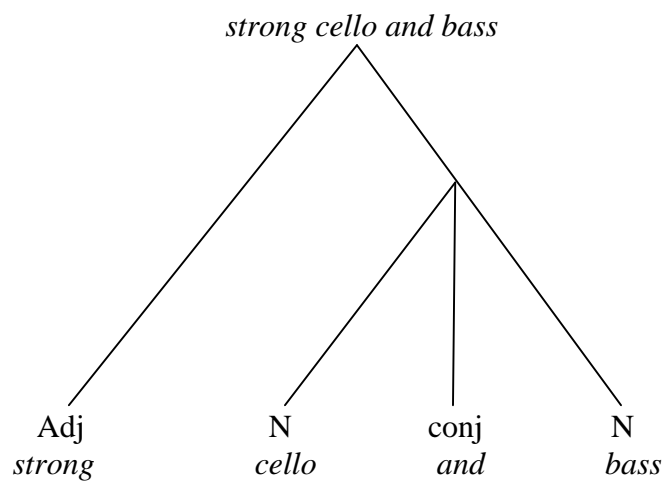
#### **a. First interpretation**

*The first movement starts with a majestic melody, dominated by (strong cello) and bass.*



b. Second interpretation

*The first movement starts with a majestic melody, dominated by strong (cello and bass).*



In the first interpretation, the word '*strong*' modifies the word '*cello*' only. The readers may think that the first movement (of the playing) starts

with a majestic melody, dominated by strong cello and a weak or medium bass. Meanwhile, in the second interpretation, the word '*strong*' modifies both words '*cello*' and '*bass*'. The readers may think that the first movement (of the playing) starts with a majestic melody, dominated by strong cello and strong bass.

### C. Discussion

The different interpretations caused by ambiguous words, phrases and sentences is one of Semantics problems; how the readers or the hearers understand the right meaning of the words, phrases and sentences. A sentence is said to be ambiguous whenever it can be associated with two or more different meanings (Cann, 1993: 8).

There are 23 ambiguity (words, phrases, and sentences) found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published in Thursday, December 11, 2008. They include 15 grammatical ambiguities and 8 lexical ambiguities. The data are:

#### 1. Lexical ambiguity

Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning. There are 8 data of lexical ambiguity, they are:

➤ 008/LA/D11/P7/T4

*“Largely, they (men) view women as only able to **serve** in domestic role”.*

➤ 010/LA/D11/P12/T6

*“More than 2 million Muslims performing the haj pilgrimage entered the final **stage** of the rituals”.*

➤ 011/LA/D11/P12/T7

Liu had signed Charter 08, an open **letter** published online calling for democracy in China and signed by more than 300 intellectuals, dissidents and journalists.

➤ 014/LA/D11/P14/T9

*...food and beverages has been limited to certain designated **ports** to help protect local producers*

➤ 016/LA/D11/P16/T10

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger **toll** on emerging Asia.*

➤ 018/LA/D11/P16/T11

*OZ Minerals Ltd., the world’s second-largest zinc mining company that’s trying to refinance debt, said it’s been approached by a number of **parties** for possible joint ventures or to acquire assets.*

➤ 019/LA/D11/P20/T12

*Cooperating with Beijing may challenge US values, but the **bond** between nations improves global equanimity.*

➤ 022/LA/D11/P22/T14

*This year's **course** was made particularly difficult because of the weather.*

## 2. Grammatical Ambiguity

Grammatical ambiguity arises when phrase, clause or sentence creates ambiguity because their structure may be interpreted in more than one ways. There are 15 grammatical ambiguities found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published on Thursday, December 11, 2008. The 15 grammatical ambiguities are:

➤ 001/GA/D11/P1/T1 and 002/GA/D11/P1/T1

*A total of **700 athletes and officials from 44 countries** are taking part in the tournament, which will run until Saturday.*

➤ 003/GA/D11/P1/T2

*The inaugural session, entitled “Building and Consolidating Democracy: A Strategic Agenda for Asia”, was attended by **foreign ministers and delegates from at least 32 countries.***

➤ 004/GA/D11/P6/T3

*Early this month East Nusa Tenggara police arrested **13 Afghan and Pakistani illegal migrants.***

➤ 005/GA/D11/P6/T3

*It is estimates that **100,000 women and children** are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation in Indonesia and abroad.*

➤ 006/GA/D11/P6/T3

***Indonesian women and children** are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*

➤ 007/GA/D11/P7/T4

*Despite **relevant education and experience**, women still struggle for recognition of their ability to serve in public office.*

➤ 009/GA/D11/**P10**/T5

*Most recently, **China's internet and media** attacked the government of a city in central China's Henan province.*

➤ 012/GA/D11/P12/T8

*Liu had signed Charter 08, an open letter published online calling for democracy in China and signed by more than **300 intellectuals, dissidents and journalists**.*

➤ 013/GA/D11/P14/T8

*The rupiah may weaken to 12,000 by March, according to the median estimates of **21 analysts and strategies** in a Bloomberg News Survey.*

➤ 015/GA/D11/P14/T9

*Domestic Goods Usage Intensification (P3DN) has begun inviting officials from the **relevant ministries and institutions** to help formulate standards.*

➤ 017/GA/D11/P16/T10

*Several **economists and government officials** said the worse-than-expected trade figures and slumping industrial production and export figures indicate the government will have little choice but to hope for growth to be between 1 and 2 percent.*

➤ 020/GA/D11/P20/T13

*It was obviously a rush job aimed at pacifying anxious **foreign businessmen and journalists** before Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva flew to Davos, Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum last week.*

➤ 021/GA/D11/P20/T13

*Some government advisers have defended the bill by arguing there is a real need to enact a law that will restore the confidence of **foreign investors and tourists**-and Premier Abhisit, armed with this new piece of proposed legislation-can speak with more credibility than simply issuing verbal assurances.*

➤ 023/GA/D11/P24/T15

*The first movement starts with a majestic melody, dominated by **strong cello and bass**.*

Each ambiguity is caused by certain cases. In the case of lexical ambiguity, there are two causal factors of ambiguity, homonym and polysemy. Homonymy occurs when two or more different words have the same form. Data 016/LA/D11/P16/T10 and 018/LA/D11/P16/T11 represent the case of lexical ambiguity caused by homonym.

Example:

016/LA/D11/P16/T10

*Experts warn the current global financial turmoil may take a bigger **toll** on emerging Asia.*

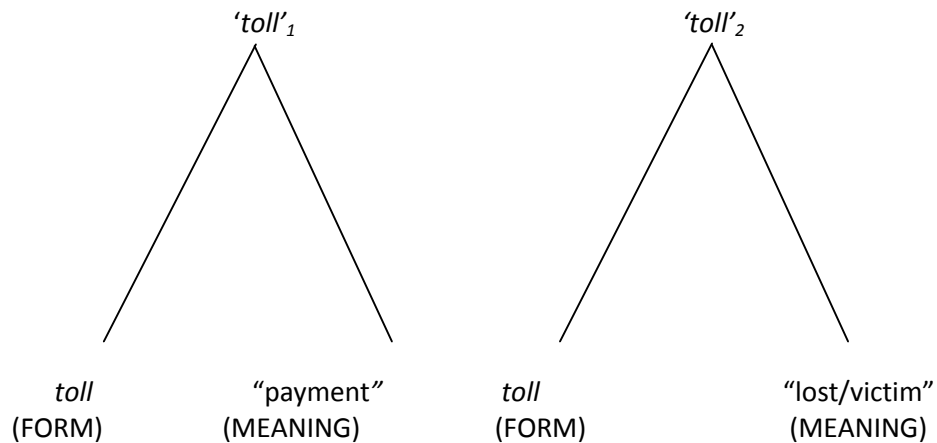
➤ Data Description

The word ‘*toll*’ is considered as lexical ambiguity in the case of homonym because the word ‘*toll*’ has more than one meaning which cause the different interpretations.

‘*Toll*’:

- Payment required for the use of a road, bridge, harbor, etc.
- Lost or victim





Meanwhile, polysemy occurs when one word has two or more senses.

Data 008/LA/D11/P7/T4; 010/LA/D11/P7/T6; 011/LA/D11/P12/T7  
014/LA/D11/P14/T9; 019/LA/D11/P20/T12; 022/LA/D11/P22/T14 represent the  
case of polysemy.

Example:

014/LA/D11/P14/T9

*..food and beverages has been limited to certain designated **ports** to help protect  
local producers.*

#### ➤ Data Description

The word '*port*' in the sentence above is considered as polysemy since the  
word '*port*' has some definitions.

Port (n):

- Town or city with a harbor
- A place where ships load and unload

- The side of a ship or an aircraft

In the case of grammatical ambiguity, there is only one causal factor of ambiguity. It is equivocal phrasing. The data are: 001/GA/D11/P1/T1 and 002/GA/D11/P1/T1; 003/GA/D11/P1/T2; 004/GA/D11/P6/T3; 005/GA/D11/P6/T3; 006/GA/D11/P6/T3; 007/GA/D11/P7/T4; 009/GA/D11/P10/T5; 012/GA/D11/P12/T7; 013/GA/D11/P14/T8; 015/GA/D11/P14/T9; 017/GA/D11/P16/T10; 020/GA/D11/P20/T13; 021/GA/D11/P22/T14; 023/GA/D11/P24/T15.

Example:

006/GA/D11/P6/T3

*Indonesian women and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*

#### ➤ Data Description

It is the case of grammatical ambiguity where the phrase of the sentence creates ambiguity because of the equivocal phrasing. '*Indonesian women and children*' phrase is consider as the ambiguous one because it does not clear enough whether the word '*Indonesian*' modifies the noun '*women*' only or '*children*' also.

Ambiguity is the case of meaning and interpretation. In this research, the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences are interpreted into two to three

interpretations. The data with two interpretations are 001/GA/D11/P1/T1;  
 002/GA/D11/P1/T1                      003/GA/D11/P1/T2;                      004/GA/D11/P6/T3;  
 005/GA/D11/P6/T3;                      006/GA/D11/P6/T3;                      007/GA/D11/P7/T4;  
 009/LA/D11/P10/T5;                      010/LA/D11/P12/T6;                      011/LA/D11/P12/T7;  
 012/GA/D11/12/T7;                      013/GA/D11/P14/T8;                      014/LA/D11/P14/T9;  
 015/GA/D11/P14/T9;                      016/LA/D11/P16/T10;                      017/GA/D11/P16/T10;  
 018/LA/D11/P16/T11;                      020/GA/D11/P20/T13;                      021/GA/D11/P20/T13;  
 023/GA/D11/P24/T15.

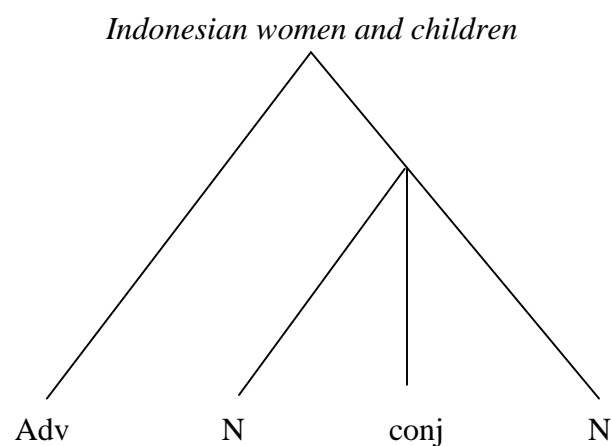
Example:

006/GA/D11/P6/T3

*Indonesian women and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*

a. First interpretation

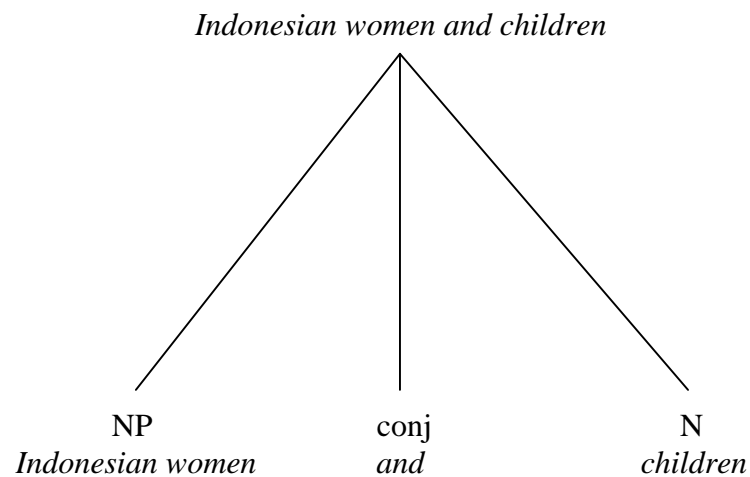
*Indonesian women and Indonesian children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*



*Indonesian women and children*

b. Second interpretation

*Women from Indonesia and children are trafficked overseas for sexual and labor exploitation.*



Besides, there are also the ambiguous words with three interpretations; they are 008/LA/D11/P7/T4; 019/LA/D11/P20/T12; 022/LA/D11/P22/T14.

Example:

008/LA/D11/P7/T4

*“Largely, they (men) view women as only able to **serve** in domestic role”.*

a. First interpretation

*“Largely, they (men) view women as only able to work in domestic role”.*

b. Second interpretation.

*“Largely, they (men) view women as only able to spend the time in domestic role”.*

c. Third interpretation

*“Largely, they (men) view women as only able to help in domestic role”.*

Dealing with the interpretations, most of ambiguous words, phrases, and sentences are interpreted into two interpretations. From the data above, all grammatical ambiguities are interpreted into two interpretations while some lexical ambiguities are interpreted into two and three interpretations.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Chapter V, Conclusions and Suggestions are the last chapter where the researcher draws the conclusions to answer the problem statements in Chapter I based on the analysis in Chapter IV. Besides, the researcher gives the suggestions for the other in relation to the topic of this thesis. Here are the conclusions and suggestions of the thesis:

#### **A. Conclusions**

Ambiguity is one of the interesting Semantics topics to be discussed. Based on the analysis in the chapter IV, the researcher draws the conclusions as follows.

##### **1. The Kinds of Ambiguity**

There are two kinds of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published on Thursday, December 11, 2008:

##### **a. Lexical ambiguity**

Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning. There are 8 data of lexical ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published on Thursday, December 11, 2008.

b. Grammatical Ambiguity

Grammatical ambiguity arises when phrase, clause or sentence create ambiguity because the structure of words, phrases and sentences may be interpreted in many ways. There are 15 data (among 23 data) of grammatical ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*.

The data shows that there is more grammatical ambiguity than lexical ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published in Thursday, December 11, 2008. The fact shows that 15 data represent grammatical ambiguity (65, 22%) and 8 data represent lexical ambiguity (34, 78%).

2. The Causal Factors of Ambiguity

The analysis also reveals that there are two causal factors of each ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post* published in Thursday, December 11, 2008. They are:

a. The Causal Factors of Lexical Ambiguity

There are two causal factors of lexical ambiguity: homonym and polysemy. Among 8 data, 2 data represent lexical ambiguity caused by

homonym and 6 data represent lexical ambiguity caused by polysemy. The data show that polysemy more frequently cause the lexical ambiguity than homonym. Among 8 data there are 6 data of polysemy (75%) and 2 data of homonym (25%).

b. The Causal Factors of Grammatical Ambiguity

There is only one causal factor of grammatical ambiguity. It is equivocal phrasing. 15 grammatical ambiguities are caused by equivocal phrasing.

3. The Ambiguity Interpretations

Besides, the analysis also reveals that the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences are interpreted into two or three ways. There are 20 data of ambiguity interpreted into two interpretations and 3 data with two interpretations. All data with three interpretations are lexical ambiguity.



Based on the data above, it can be concluded that the ambiguous words, phrases and sentences are interpreted in two ways (86, 96 %) rather than in three interpretations (13, 04%). Having more than one interpretation makes the readers confused about the exact meaning conveyed by the writer. The readers have to dig deeply to get the right interpretation. In addition to read the whole articles, they should understand the context of the situation and the topic of the articles.

### **B. Suggestions**

Based on the problem statements and after having analysis, the researcher suggests for:

#### **1. Newspapers' readers**

Ambiguous words, phrases, and sentences are one of the problems for the readers in reading and understanding the articles of the newspaper. They may be confused about the interpretation of the ambiguous words, phrases, and sentences. To figure out the right interpretation and the exact meaning, they should understand the topic of the articles and the context of situation besides reading the whole paragraph.

#### **2. The Journalist**

The journalist may make the words, phrases and sentences as interesting as possible but the journalist have to determine whether they will be ambiguous or not. The words, phrases or sentence may have clear combination but they may have more than one interpretation.

### 3. The Students

For the students who study Semantic, in the case of ambiguity, they can take this thesis as a reference. They can know the kinds of ambiguity and the causal factors of ambiguity but they also have to know how to interpret the ambiguity.

### 4. Other Researchers

For the other researcher, they can also take this research as a reference for further research in the case of ambiguity. They may combine and develop the research with many interdisciplinary studies.

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